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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH, 2013

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Health, beauty and fitness
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INNOCENT MAN SPENT A MONTH IN CUSTODY

Mother is jailed for making a false allegation

AN innocent young Barry man spent 30 days on remand in custody, when his girlfriend lied to the police and claimed he had attacked her, Cardiff Crown Court was told, writes **AJ SICLUNA**.

Russell Crowe (21) was charged with false imprisonment, making threats to kill and assault, but the proceedings were dropped when Sarah Lopez withdrew her statement which, she said, she had made up.

Lopez (32), a mother of one, of St Aiden's Rise, Barry, was jailed for 10 months after she pleaded guilty to

attempting to pervert the cause of justice.

Judge Neil Bidder said: "You made false allegations of serious criminal conduct against your then partner.

"As a result, the police responded to an emergency call in which their time was wasted, and most significantly, Mr Crowe was remanded in custody from May 30 until June 28."

He said that in no way had the relationship with Mr Crowe been an abusive one.

At the time, both had been drinking and Mr Crowe couldn't remember what had happened, and therefore give a positive story to the police.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

BARRY SCHOOL'S WEST END SHOWSTOPPER!



Showman to return in 2014 after it was...

'Best summer on the Island for many years'

WITH plans for an indoor redevelopment of Barry Island Pleasure Park on hold, showman Vernon Studt has pledged to bring his entertainment rides back just before Easter 2014, writes **TIM CHAPMAN**.

This year's fine weather saw an improvement in trade on the Island and Vernon told The GEM he hoped to continue the lease arrangement with the park's owner Ian Rogers.

Vernon spoke as a number of rides were being dismantled for the journey down the M4 to Neath Fair.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)

ABOVE:

Barry Comprehensive School students enthralled audiences over three nights with their production of Miss Saigon. (For the story and more images, turn to page 6).

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THREAT TO A RURAL IDYLL

ONE Sunday evening, I stood in my garden and watched a farmer and his son gathering in their crops.

What a lovely sight to witness a father and son working the land together, as generations of their family have done before them.

If a building developer had its way, it will be the last time I see that lovely view from my garden.

All I will see will be houses – and the farmer and his son will have lost their livelihood.

Mrs Maureen Pool, Sully.

'Bags of money' for foreign wars

CAN our MP, Alun Cairns, explain why his Government has no money to fund essential services and is apparently so cash-strapped that it has to inflict poverty on the poor...

...Yet it has no difficulty finding bags of money to contemplate highly-questionable, wars on foreign people who pose no military threat to us?

Foreigners and British

personnel are killed and maimed in these conflicts.

Incidentally, does Mr Cairns know that too many of us in the public are aware that one major reason for the unseemly haste by his Government to bomb Syria, is an attempt to deflect attention from the recent heavy-handed assault against the freedom of legitimate journalism – reference the ongoing David Miranda and Guardian newspaper case?

Marc Delaney, Barry

Vale Show's thank you

ON behalf of the committee of the homecraft section at the Vale Show, I would like to thank everyone who entered competitions and supported us.

Macmillan Nurses was the charity for this year, with a total of £443 being raised. Once again, thank you.

June Studley, Chairperson.

Highways do 'wonderful job'

I WOULD like to praise the Vale highways department for the work they are carrying out on the roads, filling in potholes.

I have been on the backs of three gentlemen there for a number of years. They were starved of funds; but now the money is available. They are getting on with the work and are doing a wonderful job.

Mrs DI Harris, Rhooose

CAR RESCUE

I WISH to express my heartfelt thanks to the two gentlemen who helped me find my car at the Vale Show.

One was another visitor, who then informed one of the ATC marshalls. I had been searching for half an hour and we were desperate.

Thank you both.

Brown Richards, Llantwit Major

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We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHN, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

'Bring back the buses'

COULD someone tell me who gave the Welsh Government the right to waste £52 million buying Cardiff Airport, and then compound this by subsidising a shuttle bus with £470,000 of taxpayers' money?

This money has come from the subsidy that goes to fund local bus services.

The residents of Barry, Rhooose and East Aberthaw will now lose out, as their services are cut.

A few buses in Barry have gone; the V5 to Cowbridge has gone, and the X91 has been rerouted to bypass Rhooose and East Aberthaw, starting on

Bus routes: 'more support needed'

IT is no exaggeration to say that I receive a handful of emails, letters or telephone calls every day over the loss of buses in the Vale.

Indeed, judging by The GEM's own letters page, this is a fair reflection of the level of local anger.

In a recent letter to Coun Lis Burnett (May 13) I called on the Vale Council to re-prioritise its spending plans and support; in particular, the rural residents who most rely on these lost services.

Sadly, Coun Burnett confirmed that the Vale Council is to continue with plans to: "reduce its own supported bus services budget in 2014/15 and 2015/16".

There is no doubt that the Vale Council has been let down by their Labour colleagues in the Welsh Government – cutting the operators' grant by 12 per cent – but we believe that the council has a duty to step in and ensure that residents are not left completely isolated by

these cuts.

The loss of vital bus services can have a dramatic impact on the ability to carry out everyday tasks.

I have spoken to people who will now struggle to make regular medical appointments, elderly residents who are unable to go shopping or to visit friends, and families who expect to be put under great strain getting their children to school when term starts.

I think fair-minded residents appreciate that services cannot be maintained at their previous levels with such extensive cuts in funding from the Welsh Government, but I want to see more support from the council to protect the most vulnerable from these cuts.

In the coming weeks, many of you will receive a transport survey from the Vale Conservatives. We want to hear from you if you have been affected by these cuts, and we want to find out more about the kind of service you expect.

Andrew RT Davies AM (South Wales Central, Leader of the Welsh Conservatives)

Records of Llandow?

I very much enjoyed the article in The GEM of August 9, headlined 'Wartime Memories of the Llandow Airfield and unforgettable Ira Jones', by Henry Hand.

It brought to mind a Canadian airman I met, either during or at the end of World War Two.

He came with his new wife, a niece of my grandmother, to 35 Walter's Road, Ogmorre Vale, and I remember

looking on him in awe, as he stood there, handsome and very smart in his RAF uniform with the wings brevet.

His name was either Forest Burton or Forest Burns, I think, and I believe he went on to fly commercial aircraft (Cambrian Airways maybe?) out of Llandow.

I just wondered if any record is available of this airman who served at Llandow airfield.

Hwyl am y tro, Eric Jones, (Bryncethin).

September 9.

How will people get to work, children to school, pensioners and mums with babies to the doctors, hospitals and shops?

The loss of local bus services will cause great hardship to many people.

Why can't politicians see that their actions have consequences? They could have saved money by paying Cardiff Bus a bit more to upgrade the X91 to the airport and local services could have been saved.

With thousands of new houses waiting to be built in the Vale, the roads are already overcrowded – we need more buses not fewer.

As for all our politicians, shame on you – give us back our buses.

G Lloyd, East Aberthaw.

Knee deep in bird droppings!

VERY often in The GEM, people complain about dog owners not cleaning up their dogs' mess.

If you would care to walk around the lake at Cold Knap in Barry, you will find that in places it is knee deep, "well

almost", in bird droppings – swans, ducks and seagulls are the culprits.

You have little choice but to walk through it.

Surely the council have a pressure washer, they could use the lake water and wash it all back into the lake.

David Lewis, Barry.

'Indictment of society'

LAST week, you kindly published my letter about the wonderful service I received at Cardiff Airport, as I am elderly and disabled.

What a contrast from an attempted shop at Sainsburys in Park Road. Initially, I thought what easy facilities there were for the disabled for parking BUT when I entered the shop, I was shocked to know no trolleys were supplied.

As I haven't the strength to carry the baskets, I had to leave and will not be returning.

Isn't it a terrible indictment of society that the needs of the old and disabled are given such low priority.

Jane Walker, Barry.

So much to fit in!

WHILST I am pleased to see my councillor, Rob Curtis, doing charitable work I feel I must ask how does he find the time to do his council work?

Surely, that must be very time-consuming in his own right – on top of which I believe he also works full time for the

NHS. He was also recently telling us all how he went up the Amazon for several weeks – and he is also the cabinet member for the environment. Just how does he fit it all in?

Perhaps instead of putting himself forward for re-election next time, he should concentrate on his outside interests instead.

C Paget, Barry

See more letters on page 21

• Email your letters to
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including your
FULL NAME, ADDRESS,
AND PHONE NUMBER.

NHS IN NEED OF A PILL

SO more than 1,200 patients have waited more than a day to be treated by A&E in south Wales.

When is the Welsh Labour-led Welsh Government going to get to grips with the health crisis in our area? Could you imagine being that person waiting to be treated? This is distressing news for all.

We need to see more joined up-thinking in our Welsh NHS, with more support given to staff. The Welsh Government must wake up and stop being in denial. Our NHS is in crisis and urgently needs that pill to make it better.

Coun Richard Bertin, Barry
(Independent, Vale of Glamorgan Council).

Not a licence to park anywhere

IN response to the 'disabled driver' who received a parking ticket (GEM letters, recently) as I understand it, a 'blue badge' allows the 'holder' to park in disabled parking bays and that is all.

It does not give them the right to park wherever they wish. Yellow lines mean 'no parking' – that means for everybody.

Brian Nicholls, Barry.

Blue badge, a misconception

IT is a common misconception that blue badge holders can park anywhere they like – but, unfortunately, this is not the case.

If your distressed disabled driver (GEM letter, August 29) refers to the booklet issued with her badge, she will see in Section 10, pages 9/10, a list of where not to park.

This includes residents' bays and permit holders only parking places – unless signs indicate that the disabled driver may do so. The Government website also has this information.

Bramble Coppins (Mrs) Barry

IN BRIEF

Weavers' demo

THE Glamorgan Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers meets on September 12 at Kynance Hall, Dinas Powys, at 7.30pm, when Sally Pointer will give a talk and demonstration on Lucet braids.

Members £2, visitors £5. Contact Kirsten Gable 01443 650336; or email kirstengable@gmail.com or welshkirsten on ravelry.

Free movie

COMMUNITIES First will be hosting a free movie night on Friday, September 13 at 6pm in Parkside Christian Centre, St Bride's Way. This month's movie is *Despicable Me*. Call 01446 709432, or email communitiesfirst@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL SEPTEMBER 12)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time		Ht		Time		Ht	
	AM	M	PM	M	PM	M	PM	M
05 Thur	07.11	9.5	19.24	9.6				
06 Fri	07.44	9.7	19.59	9.8				
07 Sat	08.19	9.9	20.33	10.0				
08 Sun	08.53	9.8	21.08	10.1				
09 Mon	09.29	9.9	21.46	9.8				
10 Tues	10.07	9.6	22.22	9.3				
11 Wed	10.47	9.2	23.06	9.1				
12 Thur	11.35	8.7	23.57	8.4				

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

Housing plans: MP's concern that councillors' voice not yet heard

THE local MP, Alun Cairns, claims the Vale Council has failed to take action regarding a planning application for 140 new homes in Wenvoe.

Mr Cairns said the planning application for the new homes was allowed to expire and

that he is now worried the Welsh Government's Planning Inspector will not have a formal view from local councillors regarding the plans when the application goes to a public inquiry.

CONCERNS

Mr Cairns, who has worked with the Wenvoe Residents' Action Group and has lodged his own objection to the plans,

explained: "I'm really disappointed that the Vale Council failed to take a decision regarding the planning application by Redrow within the time frame."

"The result of that lack of action means that the Welsh Government Planning Inspector will not now be able to consider any formal view from local councillors

regarding the application. I've worked with and supported the local community in Wenvoe over the last year, and opposed the original planning application."

"I would urge everyone to make sure that the strength of their feelings are represented by lodging their concerns regarding the development with the Planning Inspectorate by the September 12."

"It's really important that residents express their concerns based on planning reasons and principles."

Mr Cairns also claimed that the delay of the Local Development Plan (LDP) could be important to the application.

"The Vale Council cabinet has left many green spaces exposed and developers will use that as a reason to press ahead with applications right across the Vale."

"If suitable development plans were in place, this space would have little chance of being developed. They have a lot to answer for."

'MISUNDERSTOOD THE PROCESS'

However, the Vale Council said that Mr Cairns had misunderstood the process involved when an applicant submits an appeal,

in a situation where the council has not determined the planning application. It explained it will be able to present its views to the Appeal Inspector in the same way as any other appeal.

A spokeswoman

explained: "The starting point for the council will be to present a fully detailed report advising of the stance it would have taken were it an application still before it for assessment."

"This report will be considered at the Planning Committee in October."

"The planning application in question was originally registered as complete in September 2012 for 150 dwellings."

"However, following consultation responses the applicant decided on December 19, 2012, to reduce the number of dwellings proposed to 140 and the application was duly re-registered."

"Negotiations continued with the developer regarding the proposals."

"However during the course of discussions and before any decision could be taken on the acceptability or otherwise of the proposal, they decided to proceed

to appeal on May 7 this year. The council has no control over the applicant's decision to appeal; however, it is noted there remained a number of issues that had not been resolved with the developer."

"The appeal was registered as valid by the Planning Inspectorate on August 1 this year after checks by the Welsh Government to ensure an Environmental Impact Assessment was not necessary."

"It has also been decided that the appeal will be determined by Welsh Ministers, rather than by an appointed Planning Inspector."

The spokeswoman emphasised: "The council will be reporting the matter to the next available planning committee indicating the stance it would have taken if the application had been allowed to run its course."

DECISION

Vale cabinet member Lis Burnett suggested that Mr Cairns should contact the developer.

"Given the facts, I would suggest that any disappointment that Alun Cairns may have with the decision to appeal,

should be directed at the developer Redrow Homes, who decided to take the ultimate decision out of the council's hands and pass it to the Welsh Government."

She insisted: "The views expressed by local residents along with the council's own views, will be made very clear to the Planning Inspector running the appeal and to the Minister who will ultimately determine the appeal, through the formal appeal process."

Coun Burnett strongly refuted the MP's claim relating to the LDP.

"With regard to the council's forthcoming Local Development Plan, I think it is pertinent to point out that Alun Cairns' assertion

that 'If suitable development plans were in place, this space would have little chance of being developed', is completely disingenuous, as he is fully aware that the former Deposit Draft LDP, prepared and published by his Conservative colleagues, allocated this site for housing development."

Details of the appeal can be found at www.pcs.planningportal.gov.uk/psportal/casereference APP/Z6950/A/13/21977 35. Residents can also find out more about the planning proposals and the local community's views by visiting www.wenvoerag.co.uk.

CCTV installed at schools to prevent spate of lead thefts

THE cost of repairs to a school in Penarth after thieves stripped the lead from the roof, is almost £6,000.

Thieves made off with the lead from Ysgol Gymraeg Pen-y-Garth over the weekend of August 3-4.

The scrap value of the lead would have netted the robbers no more than £500; however, the cost of repairs following the burglary has cost £5,800.

This includes the cost of internal repairs caused by the theft of the lead.

Coun Chris Elmore, the Vale council's cabinet member for children's services said: "This is a sorry example of how funding, which should be used to enhance and support learning and education in the Vale, will now have to be diverted to recover the costs of this criminal act."

The damage at Pen-y-Garth has been repaired ahead of the new school term.

Instead of lead, the flashing has been replaced with a product known as 'ubiflex' which is a non-lead flashing material which has no resale value.

Ysgol Pen-y-Garth is not the only school to have been targeted recently; earlier this year, the former St Cyres school site in Dinas Powys was stripped of every piece of metal in the building by thieves, including all of the underground electric cables.

A number of schools in the Vale have installed CCTV cameras to help deter thieves from attempting to steal lead and other materials from school buildings.

However, residents are asked to report any unusual or suspicious activity close to schools buildings, to the police on 101, or the Vale council on 01446 700111.

BARRY MOTHER IS JAILED

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Said the judge: "An immediate custodial sentence is inevitable. This was a wicked offence."

Prosecutor David

Pugh said that they formed a relationship in 2012. On May 30 this year, in the early hours, she called the police claiming Mr Crowe had broken into her house,

picked up a glass and went to strike her with it. "She also alleged that two weeks before, he tied her to a chair, gagged her, and put a pillowcase over her head."

She gave the police an eight-page statement claiming that Mr Crowe was controlling and jealous.

She claimed that during the first incident, he had put five knives on the table and said: "Sit down, this is going to get ugly," before gagging her.

She added that she was petrified and believed Mr Crowe was going to hang himself.

But on June 28, the

prosecution was dropped when Lopez provided a withdrawal statement. She had told Mr Crowe's mother the original statement was a lie and everything was made up.

Said Mr Pugh: "She was reported to the police and arrested, and said she had exaggerated the incident and that Mr Crowe had not hurt her."

She added that she was devastated at him being remanded in custody.

Lopez was said to have convictions for 23 offences, including shoplifting, assault, possessing drugs, deception and harassment.

At the time, said her counsel, Sara Griffiths, she was vulnerable.

In the past, she said, Lopez had suffered domestic violence but not at the hands of Mr Crowe. At the time, she was drunk and confused, and accepted that what she did was wrong.

In the past, she said, alcohol had caused many problems.

"She wishes to make up for what she did. She has been in custody for 65 days, which was a significant punishment in itself."

She was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100.

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Please, spare a thought for Barry's Merchant Seamen!

SEPTEMBER 3 was Merchant Navy Day.

It also marked the day, in 1939, when World War Two began – although for the first eight months, not a shot was fired in anger in Europe.

We called it – 'The Phoney War' and the Germans named it – 'Sitzkrieg – The Sitting War'.

However, at sea there wasn't much sitting down, with a total of 251 Merchant ships sunk – more than one a day.

In fact, by May 1940, Britain was starving –

but not for food, we were desperately short of steel. Many of the ships lost were small ships trading to the small iron-ore ports in France and Spain.

Indeed, when the Germans swept through France in May 1940, their U-boats were free to, and losses increased.

On May 15, 1940, Lord Halifax called for Britain to sue for peace, but Winston Churchill persuaded the cabinet otherwise.

A Mrs Stiff of Barry became bitterly aware of the losses of small ships carrying iron-ore – she lost her three sons in them – the youngest

Charles was 16, and the ship he was lost on was called the *Rose Schiaffino*.

If we look at the story of *Rose Schiaffino* it will give some idea of what being in the Merchant Navy could mean during World War Two.

One man who also knew was Churchill himself, who said: "*The Battle of the Atlantic was the dominant factor throughout the war.*"

"*Never could we forget that everything happening elsewhere, on land, at sea, or in the air, depended on its outcome.*"

"*Many of the deeds*

of those who perished will never be known, but the qualities of our merchant seamen were never more strikingly shown than in their determination to defeat the U-boat."

The *Rose Schiaffino* had shuttled between small ports and was too old and not in any condition to cross the Atlantic, but she was loaded with coal and staggered across the sea to Nova Scotia, to pick up iron-ore in Wabana.

Heavily laden, in rough weather, she could not raise enough speed to join a convoy – with-

in hours, she was torpedoed and sunk. She went down immediately, with her Master, 36 crew and four gunners.

The 36-strong crew were not soldiers or Royal Navy sailors. Twenty-seven of them were over 40, six over 50 and two over 60!

It makes one wonder why the Merchant Navy men of Barry are largely forgotten.

There are no graves to be tended in the ocean. No resting places where 35,000 men lie.

I believe there is a soul in the town of

Barry. It was born on November 14, 1884, when Lord Windsor turned over the first spadeful of earth in No 1 Dock and grew strong in the men and women in the working class streets of Barry.

It had a pint in the 'Chain Locker', danced in Bindles and swam in the Knap pool. When it had a few bob it shopped in Dan Evans.

The seamen of Barry are part of that soul, and last Tuesday, and on other memorial days, we have a chance to remember them.

DAVID SIMPSON

Rotarians' free blood pressure tests at Show



THE Rotary Club of Barry attended the Vale of Glamorgan Show on August 21 at Fommon, to offer free blood pressure tests on behalf of the Stroke Association, as part of their Know your Blood Pressure initiative.

Club president Peter Battle said that it was "an excellent show" and they had been overwhelmed by the number of people wanting to take part.

The two nurses, Janice Evans and Jane Lamey, had taken a record number of tests

and the emergency service First Response Team, complete with defibrillator and dummies shared the stand and gave valuable instructions and demonstrations.

All in all it was a very successful day and the Rotary Club of Barry would like to thank everyone who supported them.

The Rotary Club of Barry meets weekly in the Mount Sorrel Hotel on Thursdays 6pm for 6.30pm.

If you would like further information speak to membership chairman Peter Battle on 01446 710204 or look online at www.ribi.org.

RP

Malcolm (84) discovers the benefits of tennis

THE secret of a healthy, long, active life has been discovered in Barry – with the magic ingredient being – a game of tennis.

Barry Tennis Club boasts its oldest active player, at a ripe age of 84 years old, along with a dozen members still playing the courts into their 70s.

The club is now promoting the message, as it celebrates its own centenary celebrations, that the secret for a healthy active life is to start enjoying tennis and keep playing.

According to 84-year-old Malcolm Hunter he feels the best advice for

well-being is to be active, enjoy the social side of the game, and still play to win.

Malcolm, along with players of all ages, will be going down memory lane at a special celebration evening at the Club at 7.30pm on Saturday, September 14, to mark its centenary year. The event includes a buffet and entertainment and is the latest in a busy year of centenary year celebrations.

For further details about Barry Tennis Club please call 01446 735303.

Cadets are on parade

RECENTLY, Air Cadets from 372 (Barry) Squadron were proudly on parade at the annual formal inspection (AFI) in HMS Cambria.

The AFI is a parade of precision drill performed by the cadets, after weeks of intense preparation.

After the formal parade, the Squadron band performed their award-winning routine, combined with the rest of the cadets carrying out a continuity drill routine (with no drill orders), showcasing the high drill standards which the cadets work to.

Afterwards, the parents and guests were given a presentation of the recent visit to Poland, before seeing

the cadets demonstrate some of the activities they have done including: first aid, archery and team building activities.

The cadets also tackle many other activities, including flying, gliding, adventure training, shooting, sport, fieldcraft, the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme, expeditions and overseas visits.

The 372 Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old. It parades on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7pm – 9.30pm behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall). Telephone 01446 747734, email oc.372@aircadets.org or visit www.372squadron.org for more information.

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Mariann and Victoria are inspirational skydivers for Velindre

TWO women who work at Llandough Hospital raised £2,000 for Velindre Hospital – by doing a sky dive.

Mariann Davies from Barry, and Victoria Beer from Cardiff, undertook the skydive on August 3 in an attempt to raise £1,000 for the Stepping Stones charity at Velindre Hospital.

Stepping Stones funds research into lung cancer and Mariann

knows only too well the support needed to care for patients with lung cancer after nursing her late partner Brian Angove.

Sadly, he passed away two years ago.

Mariann and Vicky work at Llandough Hospital and the University Hospital of Wales.

A friend said: "They are well respected and admired by their colleagues – so much so that a group of us decided we couldn't

let them do it without some support on the ground!

"A great day – and night! – was had by all and to top it all they raised in excess of £2,000! more than double the original target!

"Mariann and Vicky are an inspiration to us all."

Mariann and Victoria wanted to say a particular thank you to Romilly Bowling Club for helping with sponsorship.

Penarth girl clinches Hong Kong college place

A SIXTH form student from Penarth has been awarded a two-year placement at the prestigious United World College in Hong Kong – one of the family of colleges originally founded at St Donat's Castle, near Llantwit Major, better known to many as Atlantic College.

Penarth-born Hannah White, daughter of Chris and Caroline White, has been selected as the sole UK nominee to study at UWC Hong Kong, from September, and will be there for around nine months each year until 2015.

Hannah, who left Stanwell School this summer, was selected from several hundred applicants, and puts her success down to the fact that she learned Mandarin through her computer, some Saturday classes, and "having a good Chinese friend", even though the subject is not currently taught at her former school.

She said: "I am



Hannah White of Penarth.

incredibly lucky at having the opportunity to travel to and study in Hong Kong, and will also be able to visit a number of other places during my time there. I am very grateful for the excellent tuition that I have received at Stanwell, and Evenlode School prior to that, and it was a great help in my application to UWC."

The college year in Hong Kong is two terms, with a short holiday in between, when Hannah expects to get back to Penarth to see her family and friends.

Friendly help with computer gobbledygook!

DO you want to start using a computer or feel more comfortable with the one you have?

Have you tried already and found it a bit tricky? Are you happy with what you can do, but would like to be able to do more?

Are you simply interested in the way things are developing?

Among many opportunities for adults to learn, Penarth Computer Club is available for those who would like to tackle computing or expand the scope of their computing world.

We understand the problems of beginners; recognise different levels of ability; know that people pick things up at different speeds – and we try to cater for all this.

Our new session starts on Tuesday, September 10 with free admission if you want to 'test the water'. Thereafter, meeting fees will be £2 for members or £3 for visitors.

Our annual membership fee is £5 starting in September, but you can choose to remain an occasional visitor if you prefer.

Our meetings are held twice a month on the second and fourth Tuesdays in the lesser hall of All Saints Church in Victoria Square, Penarth. Doors open at

7.30 pm and the meetings start at 8pm.

A computer is not needed – indeed; you might come to learn which computer would best suit your needs if you are considering buying one.

Our talks use a computer – its screen is projected onto a large screen for easier viewing. Questions are encouraged during talks as well as taken at the end. We emphasise that the evenings are friendly and informal.

At our first meeting we will give a short introductory presentation, followed by some simple ways of making computing life easier and saving time and trouble.

Useful information might be handed out, but will, in any event, be added to our web site at penarthcomputerclub.co.uk

The programme is devised in response to the expressed needs and wishes of our members. You could be part of that process and benefit from the results.

HOWARD DESMOND

Friends group outing

OVER 30 members of Friends and Neighbours Senior Citizen Group who meet at the Senior Health Shop in Barry held their summer outing to Brecon Railway where they enjoyed a delightful tour of the countryside.

Gay Fifield, coordinator of the group, said: "It gives me pleasure to help those less able to go out and enjoy themselves. Many of them have no relatives and by joining in the programme of events of Friend and Neighbours, they gain more independence and the day ended with a visit to Cyfartha Castle."

AFTER LAST WEEK'S SHOCK GOVERNMENT DEFEAT...

Local MPs explain their 'Syria' vote

IN the past week, the issue of whether the United Kingdom should take part in military action against the Syrian regime or not has dominated the headlines.

The GEM invited local MPs Alun Cairns and Madeleine Moon to explain how they arrived at their decisions to vote.

Alun Cairns supported the Commons' motion, stressing it was a cautious one and indicated a further vote was needed before action could go ahead.

He said: "With memories of Iraq and Afghanistan, I was more than reluctant to see our country involved in military conflict.

"Yet, the obvious suffering of innocent children and civilians on television screens is heart-breaking.

"Instinctively, I am opposed to military action so I urged the Prime Minister to develop a consensus.

"The motion last week was very cautious. It was specific in demanding a further vote before any action could take place.

"It called for a strong humanitarian response and that any action must be legal, proportionate and focused on saving lives.

"This required a further vote in the House of Commons before any military action. This is why on balance I supported the motion."

Madeleine Moon did not support the motion and said she wanted the United Nations to assess the evidence collected by its inspectors first.

She said: "I voted for time for the UN inspectors to have time to collect their evidence, analysis it and make it available for a debate in the UN.

"I voted to allow the UN to take responsibility for the use of chemical weapons.

"The UN will be a paper tiger until forced to take responsibility.

"There was no clear national interest to be served, no workable strategy identified or viable plan put forward that I could support." (See page 8)

Take Five at Art Central



VISUAL artists Sue Roberts, Shirley Anne Owen and Kay Keogh have recently set up '3ormore' to organise exhibitions.

Artists Laura Holliday and Bernard Heslin will feature in the group's inaugural exhibition at Art Central in Barry from this Saturday, September 7.

The theme is 'Transience'.

Old Swan is set for a bumper beer festival!

THE Old Swan Inn in Llantwit Major has announced its third and final beer and cider festival of the season.

From September 6 – 8, the 12th century pub will be playing host to a "vast selection of beers and ciders", as well as some of south Wales' best-loved bands.

Proceedings will commence at lunchtime this Friday, with the opening of the first keg and culminate on the Sunday night. The vast list includes 12 guest ales and ciders, mainly from Welsh brewers, including offerings from Dark Star Brewery, Wye Valley Brewery, Wickwar Brewery and Frog Island Brewery. The line-up will be complemented by local bands, including Burning Bridges, Droopers Brew, Dan Fairhurst Band and Harri.

An extensive festival

menu will also be available to keep the foodies catered for so expect plenty of hearty Welsh fare, not to mention a splendid hog roast on the Saturday from 6pm to keep festival goers well fed!

The Old Swan Inn's manager, David Moll, encouraged everyone to come on down over the course of the weekend to enjoy the festival atmosphere: "We hold three beer festivals a year and the September festival marks the final festival of the season, and we plan to see it out in style! We've got a wide range of beers and ciders on tap, from a dozen different breweries and we're expecting a big and buzzing crowd."

The pub, which dates back to the 12th century, is a short walk from the station, which is well-served by trains every hour from Cardiff and Bridgend.

Barry Town United has a new president!

MP Alun Cairns has become honorary president of Barry Town United.

He had welcomed news that the Football Association of Wales (FAW) had voted to admit it into the Welsh League's Third Division.

This followed a High Court ruling that the FAW had acted unlawfully in not allowing the

club in the league.

Mr Cairns said: "I feel truly privileged to accept the role of honorary president of Barry Town United. The last few seasons have been tough for supporters and players alike, but now the future is looking as exciting as it has ever been. Barry Town owned and run by its supporters – in the Welsh League!"

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STUDENTS TELL THE STORY OF MISS SAIGON



Daniel Saunders (Chris), Zoe Churchill (Kim) and Bradley Davies (Thuy).

PHOTOS BY JAC OSBORNE AND SCOTT NELSON.

STUDENTS at Barry Comprehensive School put in a sizzling performance near the end of term of the smash West End show, *Miss Saigon*.

It was a challenging task, with a powerful, emotive narrative, a demanding musical score and a set that involved a helicopter!

However, the *Miss Saigon School Edition* production team and cast pulled it off beautifully, and they did this across three performances.

The production was very slick, involving a full orchestra, a well-choreographed dream sequence and the memorable helicopter landing.

The show was testament to the continued hard work of some excellent students and their dedicated staff from the music and drama departments, but also involving teachers from other areas.

Audience members were enthralled by the performances; one of the school governors described the production as "a triumph". This was a fitting tribute to a first rate production. AC

Are you in favour of Barry mixed-sex school proposal?

ON September 9, a Vale Council consultation will open asking the question: 'Is there demand for a new mixed sex secondary school in Barry?'

A proposal to combine the girls' school, Bryn Hafren, and the boys' school, Barry Comprehensive, was discussed in a Vale council cabinet meeting in July.

The consultation will ask parents and pupils, both current and future ones, as well as school staff and other interested people

whether they would support, in principle, a change to mixed secondary schooling in Barry. Respondents will also have the option to expand on their view if they wish.

The purpose of this consultation is to assess whether or not there is a demand for a move towards a new mixed-sex school in Barry. No final decision will be made based on this consultation.

No work on the detailed arrangements for how the two schools could be combined has been carried out as yet. The council does not

want to commit time and money to develop these arrangements until it has been established that there is support for the proposal amongst the community.

If the results of this initial consultation confirm that there is support for the proposal, a second more detailed consultation, which would include detailed information on how the merger would happen, would be undertaken.

This initial consultation will open on Monday, September 9 and will run until Friday, October 25.

During this time, community drop-in sessions will be held at both Barry Comprehensive and Bryn Hafren Comprehensive Schools where local people will be able to find out more about the proposal, and discuss their views with officers and councillors.

The results of the consultation will be discussed by the council's cabinet in December.

Busy Island!

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He said: "This was the best year for many years – it was just a pity that the really hot two week spell in July wasn't when the children were off school!"

"There is no comparison with last year which was a washout."

"This August we lost only two or three days due to rain. Last year, we lost 40 working days through the summer."

This was the fifth year that the Swansea-born showman had organised rides through the lease agreement, although he has been involved in providing the entertainment in the park for years before that.

Despite the wonderful weather this summer, Vernon stressed that it hadn't led to a business bonanza.

"There were a lot of people about, but they are still being careful with their money."

Vernon said that he was encouraged by the work on the car park up at Nell's Point and the work due to taking place at the Eastern Promenade.

"I'm hoping to return a couple of weeks before next Easter and with some new rides too," he said

Mayor thanks 'Barry Hookers' for their support for Age Cymru

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan, Coun Margaret Wilkinson, met up with the 'Barry Hookers' this week, to thank them for their support in a charity project for Age Cymru.

The ladies have agreed to knit or crochet little bobble hats which will appear on Innocent smoothie bottles in Sainsbury's stores across Wales.

Age Cymru will receive a donation for every smoothie hat knitted.

The Barry Hookers were formed after being involved in this year's Barry Arts Festival with 'yarn bombing'.

As a result of public interest and the huge uptake in the town, people from Barry and the Vale contributed to an exhibition, staged in Art Central and the trees in King Square were embellished with colourful crochet and knitting.

After a very successful exhibition – with thanks to Tracey Harding, manager of Art Central and Katherine Owen and Alison Singleton from Barry Library – the group decided to continue as a crochet, craft and social group, naming themselves the Barry Hookers.

After three months, the yarn bombed trees in King Square began to look sad and grubby and work which took hours of patience and creativity to put together, was cut down within 20 minutes by two members of the group.



In the photograph with the Mayor are Pete Lee, owner of Coffee Cove, Liz Bond, Ann Watkins and Fiona Rodgers.

The positive outcome of this was a trip to the George Thomas Hospice shop in Holton Road, where the sad remains were enthusiastically received for recycling.

The group now meet weekly on a Wednesday from 10am to 12 noon at Coffee Cove on Barry Island where the owner, Pete Lee, has welcomed and encouraged them to "make themselves at home".

As a gesture of thanks, the ladies decided to create a 'masterpiece' for one of the walls of his café and wine bar.

The collage embodies their perceptions of Barry and uses reclaimed and recycled materials – wool, beads, fabric, driftwood and netting.

Pat Temple-Meads, one of the founders, said: "We hope it will give pleasure to future customers and that they will explore the picture

and appreciate the hidden details. We will always be looking for new projects as well as doing our own individual crafting (including patchwork and quilting) and are happy to be working alongside the U3A, who will be joining us once a month

from September.

"Anyone else interested in joining us should just come along to Coffee Cove on a Wednesday morning".

If you would like to take part in the Big Knit 2013, contact Emma Lionel of Age Cymru on 029 20431555.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL (UN-NAMED LANE REAR OF MAGISTRATES COURT BARRY) (ROAD CLOSURE) (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2013

1. On 5th September 2013 the Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), made an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below:

2. The Order will come into operation on Monday 16th September 2013 and will be known as "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (Un-Named Lane Rear of Magistrates Court Barry) (Road Closure) (Temporary) Order" 2013.

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to proceed in the location specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Location The un-named lane rear of Barry Magistrates Court that joins Greenwood Street at grid 311723 167980 in a generally southeasterly direction for a distance of 90 metres.

Reason To allow for demolition and re-development works to be carried out.

Duration From 08:00am Monday 16th September 2013 for a maximum period of 18 months.

Alt. Route None
NB: Pedestrian access will NOT be maintained. 5th day of September 2013..

M. E. Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps, Wenvoe.
CF5 6AA.



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Plaid surgery

RESIDENTS are invited to attend an advice surgery to discuss any council issues or concerns.

Dr Ian Johnson, Steffan Wiliam, Nic and Shirley Hodges will be joined by Steve Blakeman and Marilyn Brown and the Barry Plaid Cymru team at The Community Room the County Library, King Square, Barry, from 11am until 12 noon on Saturday, September 7. No appointments are necessary.

Nature reserve wins 10th green flag accolade...



Group members at a Sunday morning work party.

CWMTALWG Local Nature Reserve has won a Green Flag Community Award for the 10th year in succession.

The award, previously known as the Green Pennant Award, is given to green spaces managed to a good standard by volunteers.

The Cwmtalwg Reserve, owned by the Vale Council, has been managed by Cwmtalwg Woodlands Residents Group for 25 years.

The judge remarked that the hard work of the group over the last 25 years is clearly evident at the site, and commented that it was an excellent example of how local residents can work with the local authority and other organisations to provide a wonderful amenity for the wider community.

The group is delighted to receive

this award from Keep Britain Tidy. New supporters are always welcome, and anyone can become a member, whether or not they wish to volunteer to do any practical work with the Sunday morning work parties.

For more details see www.cwmtalwgwoods.co.uk, contact the group organiser at a.bryan7@ntlworld.com or phone 01446 733945.

ANNE BRYAN

Rhoose surgery

COUN Jeffrey James will be holding a Rhoose ward surgery this Saturday, September 7, at 10am in Rhoose Community Hall, Stewart Road, Rhoose. No appointment is necessary, and all are welcome.

Residents celebrate brand new play area

TO celebrate the arrival of the new play equipment on Dinas Common, the community council invited Olympic athlete Hannah Mills to officially open the area and start the fun run.

Organised by Ms Jo Macpherson, in conjunction with Coun Carolyn Mirza Davies, chairperson of the commons and open spaces committee, many residents turned out to support the event in aid of Dinas Powys Voluntary Concern.

The chairman of the community council, Coun Vince Driscoll, and Coun Mirza Davies set an example by running in the event.

After the last competitor reached home, the prizes were presented by the chairman of council and competitors trooped over to the Dinas Powys Athletic Club to celebrate.

Isaac Follon, aged 11, was the overall winner of the fun run; Alice Nottingham won the title of first child home between 12-16, and the oldest competitor was Mr Derrick Griffiths - who was also running his 189th race. The Kerbey family won the prize for the best fancy dress category.

Thanks were expressed by the organisers to local companies who financially supported the event - The Wild Blackberry, Budgens, Valley View Fruit and Veg Store and Valley Developments (South Wales) Ltd.



Overall winner of the Dinas Powys fun run, Isaac Follon.



Olympian Hannah Mills of Dinas Powys, cuts the tape to start the fun run.

Alexandra looks good to contest specs event

ONE of Barry's "proudest wearers of glasses" has been nominated as a regional runner-up in the competition to be named Spectacle Wearer of the Year.

Alexandra Porter, 26, from Barry, was chosen from hundreds of entries from across Wales.

Known as the Oscars of the glasses world, the awards celebrate specs wearers from the UK and Republic of Ireland, across four age categories and were launched by Spice Girl Melanie C earlier this year.

Ms Porter said: "I couldn't believe it! I was so chuffed as I didn't think I would get this far."



Sully Bridge Club cheque for Ty Hafan

SULLY Bridge Club's hearts proved to be in the right place last Wednesday, when a cheque for £630 was presented to Ty Hafan children's hospice.

The club organised a charity raffle 'with a difference'; all the prizes were meal vouchers donated by restaurants, cafes and pubs in the area.

There were 20 donations and the club wishes to express their gratitude for their most generous help. Linda Francis received the cheque on behalf of Ty Hafan from club treasurer Judith Owen, with two committee members Sam Fellows and Vernon Pearne.

Once everything was cleared away, it was bridge as usual. The club has over 100 members, and meets on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, also Saturday evening.

RESULTS for Sully Bridge Club, Monday, August 19:

North/South:
1st Peter Millar/Mark Roderick - 74.81, 2nd Anne Johns/Joy Secular - 65.93, 3rd David Mahoney/Brian Gardner - 61.00.

East/West:
1st Hilary Pickard/Brenda Shepherd - 63.00, 2nd Anne Hilary Jones/Sean Macdougall - 62.42, 3rd Bill Leyburne/Lynne Leyburne - 57.48.

Wednesday, August 21: North/South:

1st Jane Greatrex/John Pikoulis - 62.70, 2nd Alan Jones/Carolyn Matthews - 62.70, 3rd Hilary Pickard/Brenda Shepherd - 51.85.

East/West:
1st Carol James/Alan James - 71.43, 2nd Anne Macdougall/Roger Cradick - 55.65, 3rd John Worlock/Val Davies - 53.27.

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Have you ever wondered about Noah's Ark and the Genesis Flood?

Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear Rod as he draws from his ten year feasibility study, exactly how plausible the biblical Ark was!

Demonstrating with a scale model Ark, Rod communicates in clear, descriptive terms how it may have been built. He can expertly answer many of the questions that most people haven't considered such as:

- How big was the Ark and how did all the animals fit?
- Were dinosaurs on the Ark?
- Where did all the water come from?
- Where did all the water go?
- What evidence do we see today for a global Flood?
- How could the world have been populated in just 4,500 years since the Flood?

An extensive range of creation resources will be available and a voluntary offering will be taken. Light refreshments will follow the presentation.

This event is presented through **Creation Ministries**

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Commons was recalled for Syria vote with a 'tweet' from the Prime Minister

'...IT WAS THE FIRST MOST MPS HAD HEARD OF IT!'

LAST Thursday, the UK Government lost a critical vote on possible future intervention in Syria. I agreed when first elected, to provide a regular column for GEM readers which shed light on the inside workings of Westminster – this vote seems like one of those times when further explanations are needed.

On Sunday, September 25, the world was told of the recall of Parliament by a tweet from David Cameron, saying the Speaker had agreed to his request for a recall.

This was news to the majority of MPs.

There had been letters to the Government demanding a vote in the Commons before any action was taken in relation to Syria, but this was the first indication that action was pending.

There is a rule in politics that the meeting before the meeting is the important meeting. The pre-meeting is where the decisions are made, the bargaining and negotiations held, allowing a consensus on positions to be revealed.

It is the job of the 'Whips' to do this work with MPs. They ask the questions about how people feel about the proposed vote and tease out the areas of concern and opposition.

They get the feel of the level of support and opposition – which opposition can be overcome by 'tweaking' and how great any

rebellion may be.

This is where the disaster started to unfold for the Government: there seems to have been little assessment of the mood of Coalition MPs. The failure to consult added to the angry mood of MPs, who found that they had to abandon families and make sudden travel plans to return to London, in what was, in effect, one voting day early.

This rush added to a feeling of decisions having already been made that required a vote before the weekend.

The recall also had implications for police and security staff, catering and research staff – all of whom were called back to work.

The cost of all of this has yet to be revealed, but it will have been large. Having been deafened by the mantra of austerity, this sudden high-cost exercise added to anger.

The Government motion made clear the lack of support from the Coalition benches for immediate retaliatory action, before the UN inspectors had done their work.

The motion was a clear indicator that the recall was unnecessary. It said nothing that could not have waited until the Monday sitting.

There has been considerable discussion about the impact of the vote on the decision to join America in the Iraq war influencing the outcome of last Thursday's vote. That cannot be denied.

There was a feeling that Parliament wanted more information, more evidence, more legal advice and, most importantly, not

GUEST COLUMN



Madeleine Moon, MP for Bridgend, who writes a column for our sister paper, gives a fascinating insight into the dramatic events surrounding the historic debate on Syria in the House of Commons.

to be bounced into making a decision.

A prime example was the often-repeated mantra that the Arab League wanted Western intervention.

This intrigued me, since Syria is a member, and I wanted to check how the vote had been taken and who had voted for Western action.

My main concern was that a small majority of one grouping of

the League, perhaps a Sunni one, had carried the vote. This would have meant that the West could be seen as supporting Sunni against Shia.

A quick google search on my iPad in the Chamber found the Secretary-General of the League falling short of endorsing intervention, and stressing that this would increase anti-Western feeling in the region.

I was not in the Commons years ago when the Iraq vote was taken; there have been reports of intimidation by the Whips' office to force people to support the vote.

This is a very different Commons; threats of violence, loss of political advancement and intimidation no longer hold the power they once did.

So many rebellions have taken place in this Parliament that the spell has been broken.

The debate, when called, gave backbenchers a window of five minutes to make a speech. The rules allow an extra minute for the first two interventions taken. Thus, many speakers had seven minutes to make their points.

Some were given extra time because they were making excellent speeches. Some had agreements with friends to intervene on each other, to gain extra time – and others, who had little respect in the Chamber, were given time to make themselves appear more foolish.

As we came to the wind-up speeches, tension increased: the failure of the deputy Prime

Minister to give clear answers to questions about the use of RAF bases in Cyprus made many uneasy.

The rumour that Parliament would be recalled again over the weekend, if the Government was not happy with the vote, also hardened positions.

It was no shock to see the Labour amendment defeated. It was, however, a shock to see the Government motion lost.

Later, it emerged that 31 Coalition party MPs failed to vote – including four Ministers – who failed to return from holiday; 10 members of the Coalition Government failed to vote, two claimed not to have heard the division bell.

Where does this leave us now? I am pleased that President Obama is now saying Congress will have the chance to debate and vote on American action.

The UN must take a stance on the use of chemical weapons, an issue which affects all but the seven nations who have failed to sign or fully ratify the Convention on the use of chemical weapons.

The G8 and G20 meet next week. The membership has the opportunity to tackle Russia on its support for Assad.

Senior Government figures have said there will be no second vote on intervention by the UK. A week is a long time in politics; things will have moved on considerably by the time you read this.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rainforest talk

Vale Council cabinet member for the environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis, will be giving a Power Point presentation on his recent voluntary conservation work in the Amazonian rainforest, at the Forest Lodge on Tuesday, September 10 at 6.30pm; with questions and answers afterwards.

Spiritualist readings

CADOXTON Christian Spiritualist Church is holding readings from 10am on September 14, to raise funds

Bay walk

THE Barry committee of Cancer Research UK (Cymru) is holding its annual sponsored walk on September 29 at 11am from the Cardiff Barrage car park, Penarth, and will go around Cardiff Bay.

All are welcome. For more information and sponsorship forms, contact Dawn on 01446 743506 after 6pm.

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When Vale hosted a remarkable social engineering experiment

A man doing research into an almost forgotten plan to resettle the unemployed in the Vale, is asking GEM readers if they can help.

Roland Ward's research is centred on the Vale village of Fferm Goch, Llangan, which was the scene of a remarkable social experiment during the depression in the 1930s.

Mr Ward, who lives in Raglan, is making a study of the 'land resettlement' policy, whereby unemployed men from the Rhondda – many former coal miners – were brought, with their families, to settle in the Vale.

What was land resettlement? How many people did it affect?

Mr Ward explains all this in the following article:

"Something must be done!" was the well-known phrase attributed to Edward VIII, when he saw with his own eyes long lines of unemployed men, while on a trip to the south Wales valleys in

November 1936, just weeks before his abdication.

The Government sought measures to overcome these economic problems and this led to the passing of the Special Areas (Development and Improvement) Act 1934.

The most direct method to counter the problem was to do what was possible for the depressed areas themselves and to establish new light industries.

As well as that, they looked closely at land settlement.

The agency for this in Wales was the Welsh Land Settlement Society Ltd and the first chairman was also the Commissioner for Special Areas in Wales, Captain Geoffrey Crawshaw, also well known for establishing the world famous Crawshaw's rugby XV.

The types of settlements in Wales were mainly co-operative profit-sharing farms and the programme was to be for 500 families.

The local co-operative sites were at Boverton

(Trebeferad), near Llantwit Major, and at Fferm Goch, Llangan.

The Fferm Goch farm was based on the farm known as Red Farm, Penllyn, and was purchased in late 1938 – 212 acres of land including a farmhouse, outbuildings and two cottages.

In a report written prior to purchase, by Robert R Jones, Land Commissioner, he estimated that the property could be bought at the 1930 valuation of £6,500 plus an uplift for enhancements since that date. He recommended the farm's suitability for the purpose of land settlement.

Recruitment for all the sites was from the high unemployment areas in the south Wales coalfields, mainly from the Rhondda. A long period of training was provided and Fferm Goch had the advantage of being located near to the first settlement at Boverton.

A 'garden village' was built in the form of semi-detached houses surrounding a village green, a similar design to other settlements already established since 1936.

A co-operative was formed and the separate company known as Fferm Goch Co-operators (Welsh Land Settlement) Ltd was trading in 1939 – based on the trading rules of the WLSS.

The lease was surren-

dered at the end of 1959, after trading for more than 20 years, and the remaining settlers from the special areas were allowed to remain as assured tenants at favourable rents for their lifetime.

This is where I have to end the story of Fferm

Goch, as I have no contacts to relate the tales of the original settlers and their descendants.

My research into the history of the Welsh Land Settlement movement began by concentrating mainly on Sealand in Flintshire, where I was brought up.

However, there is a much bigger story to tell and any contributions would be welcome.

I can be contacted via my blog at www.wlssealand.wordpress.com, or by e-mail: rolandofraglan@aol.com ROLAND WARD

Vale Show's 'thank you'

I WOULD like to thank all who made the Vale Show a great success this year – without the many volunteers, competitors, traders and thousands of visitors, we would not have a show.

Also my thanks to The GEM for their feature the week before the Show, and the support they give the society regularly. Ray Thomas, (Chairman VoG Show Society)

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sporty ones, haughty ones, fluffy ones and scruffy ones.

CHARITY GOLF

THERE will be a charity golf day at Whitchurch Golf Club, Cardiff on October 17, supporting Welsh Hearts' fundraising for defibrillators throughout Wales and also supporting The Cardiomyopathy Association in Wales.

Shotgun start at 1pm; competition will be a team Stableford with the best two scores to count on each hole; 3/4 handicap; maximum handicap allowance men: 24, Ladies: 30. Contact Sharon Owen on 01633 681788 or 07730 944700 or email fundraising@welshhearts.org.

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The day Ira 'Taffy' Jones took on bombers with a Verey pistol!

FOLLOWING on the fascinating article by Henry Hand in The GEM last week, recounting his wartime experiences at RAF Llandow, David Dimmick throws more light on the renowned Ira 'Taffy' Jones. Mr Dimmick, a member of Garw Valley Heritage Society, was recently interviewed by BBC Radio Wales on his finding of a Cromwellian cannonball, thought to have been used at the siege of Plas y Betws during the Civil War.

THE STORMY DOWN FLIGHT OF 'TAFFY' JONES.

During the late 1970s, I worked as a foreman renovating a World War Two rifle range at the former RAF airfield at Stormy Down, Porthcawl, which was being adapted for use by the Territorial Army.

Part of the job entailed removing the spent bullets from the sand at the back of the range. This was because of the high lead content for scrap value – and, needless to say, I gathered a few souvenirs for my trouble.

Years later, while working as a bricklayer during the construction of the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend, I happened to mention my involvement with Stormy Down to a workmate, Bill, and he said that he had served part of his time in the RAF at that particular airfield.

He recalled details of an incident which occurred during an

attack on the airfield by Luftwaffe bombers. As the attack materialised, Bill found himself next to an ablutions hut, into which he promptly threw himself, seeking more secure shelter under a Belfast sink.

Moments later, a man Bill recognised as his Commanding Officer, 'Taffy' Jones, entered the hut and also sought the same shelter as Bill. As the two men waited for the attack to subside, a line of machine-gun bullets came through the roof and ricocheted off the floor in front of them.

'Taffy' who suffered from a pronounced stammer, was so incensed, he uttered the one word B-B-B-Bastards! He ran out of the hut, shaking his fist at the now departing enemy, sprinted across the tarmac, jumped into and took off in an unarmed Hawker Henley training aircraft, in hot pursuit of the enemy bombers.

He attacked a Ju88 with the cockpit Verey pistol, but was targeted by the enemy's rear gunner, who fired a burst of bullets into Taffy's wing, forcing him to break off and return to Stormy Down, where he landed safely (something of an event for Taffy, who had a history of crash landings).

This was not the end of the matter, for Taffy was reprimanded for his actions. I suspect that there must have been a few smiles at the Air Ministry, along with a sneaking respect for this hot-headed little Welshman!

I would like to think that some of my souvenir rounds once came

from Taffy's service revolver during target practice, fired by the great man himself.

I did discover from subsequent conversations with Bill, that he had eventually joined a special forces group put together for 'Combined Operations.'

Once his duties required him to act as Winston Churchill's bodyguard, when he visited the North African front.

Bill also served in Italy and with Tito's partisans in Yugoslavia on the Balkan front. His unit had the famous actor Douglas Fairbanks Jr attached to it as US Navy liaison officer.

Taffy was in fact James Ira Thomas Jones, DSO, MC, DFC and bar, MM. A flying ace of the First World War, he is listed as having 37 kills to his name.

The stammer came from the act of being rolled down a very steep hill, in a wooden barrel as a small child.

Throughout his brilliant RFC/RAF career, he had a reputation of crashing on landing, and this was discovered to be caused by his defective sight. Imagine what the man could have done with perfect vision!

After the war, he wrote two books of his experiences as a pilot, and a biography of Edward Mannock another 'ace'.

'Taffy' died after accidentally falling off a ladder at his home in 1960. He is buried at Canaan Chapel, Bancyfelin.

DAVID DIMMICK

Marie Curie in million pound City share-out



Mehmet Dalman (chairman), Helen Mulhern (fundraiser), Karen Jones (fundraising manager), Tan Sri Vincent Tan, Malky Mackay.

THE Marie Curie Hospice in Penarth says that it is thrilled to be one of the recipients of a donation at the newly-launched 'Thanks a Million' campaign at Cardiff City Football Club.

Vincent Tan donated a total of one million pounds to selected local charities and has pledged that Cardiff City Football Club will repeat this million pound donation to community-based organisations every year he remains the club's majority shareholder, and the club remains in the Premier League.

There was a drinks reception and lunch,

followed by a presentation of the cheques, attended by the chairman, manager and senior squad, as well as the charities and organisations that were receiving a donation.

Karen Jones from the hospice said: "The Marie Curie Hospice is so pleased to have been chosen to receive this donation, and it will be put to very good use, continuing to provide free specialist medical care for our patients with serious illnesses in the hospice, and in their own homes."

"We are very grateful to everyone at Cardiff City Football Club for supporting us in this way".

Local farmers hand cheque to MS charity



Andrew Edwards presents the £500 cheque to NFU Cymru president, Ed Bailey.

GLAMORGAN farmers have donated £500 to NFU Cymru's chosen charity for 2013, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, following a very successful luncheon held in the run up to the recent Vale of Glamorgan Show.

Andrew Edwards, NFU Cymru Glamorgan county chairman, said: "We are very grateful to everyone who got involved, the sponsors, the staff and the members who came along."

"This has become a very successful feature in the run up to the county show. We had an excellent day, while raising much-needed funds for worthy charities."

Multiple Sclerosis is an often misunderstood condition of the central nervous system. It's normally diagnosed in people between the ages of

20 and 40. Once diagnosed, MS stays for life, but recently developed treatments and MS specialists can help manage the symptoms. No one knows the cause and a cure is yet to be found, but the MS Society is funding research which is helping scientists to reverse the damage caused by MS.

Jestyn Evans, the charity's fundraising manager for Wales, said: "So far, NFU Cymru members all around Wales have raised thousands of pounds for our charity and we are extremely grateful to them for this."

"Our thanks go to all those who took part in the Glamorgan luncheon to raise funds for our charity."

NFU Cymru plans to organise and take part in various events to help raise funds for the condition of the central nervous system. It's normally diagnosed in people between the ages of

Ploughing match

THE committee of Vale of Glamorgan Ploughing and Hedging Society recently met at the Six Bells in Penmark, to make final arrangements for the ploughing match at Gileston Farm, St Athan, CF62 4HX, this Sunday, September 8.

This year's prize card has been increased across all classes for the Society's events and Aberthryn Tractor Boys and the Glamorgan Iron Horse Society will put on displays of tractors and equipment.

There will be no entry fee or parking charges for the day.

The Ferguson Club will be staging their European T20 Ploughing Championships, open to the little grey Ferguson T20 with the original General Purpose, two-furrow plough, run under the Ferguson Club Rules.

Visitors can take part in a photographic competition, which will take place during the day, and details will be available at the Ferguson Club stand mid-morning.

Cancer nurse Rhoslun will follow in her mum's footsteps

LOCAL patients being treated for colorectal cancer will now have the support of a clinical nurse specialist at Cwm Taf Health Board.

Rhoslun Morris, a Macmillan colorectal specialist oncology nurse, based at the Royal Glamorgan Hospital, in Llantrisant, will play a vital role as a key worker for all patients newly diagnosed with colorectal cancer – and follow in her mum, Eileen's, footsteps in the process.

Rhoslun explained: "I always had an interest in cancer care. My mother, Eileen Owen, was one of the first Macmillan nurses in Taff Ely. She was one of two nurses who set up the service."

Susan Morris, general manager for Macmillan Cancer Support in Wales, said: "Macmillan is delighted to have worked with Cwm Taf Health Board to fund Rhoslun's role as a Macmillan colorectal specialist oncology nurse to support bowel cancer patients."

"Rhoslun is one of more than 250 Macmillan professionals working in Wales to support people affected by cancer, and their loved ones."

Colorectal cancer is the third most common cancer in the UK – after breast and lung – 75 per cent of cases occurring in people aged 65 or over.

It is the second most common cause of cancer death in the UK.

According to statistics published by Bowel Screening Wales in February 2013, the number of new cases diagnosed in Wales totalled 2000.

SCOPE cabaret

SCOPE Sully adult service is holding a cabaret fundraising event on October 5, in the Paget Rooms, Penarth, starting at 7.30pm; all the acts are performing free. Further information on 01446 733418.

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Volunteers can sign up to save lives...

THE Welsh Ambulance Service was at the Vale of Glamorgan Agricultural Show to encourage more members of the public to become Community First Responders.

First responders are volunteers who give up their spare time to attend appropriate 999 calls, and give basic first aid to people in their own community.

Volunteers will also be trained by the Welsh Ambulance Service to administer oxygen therapy, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the use of a defibrillator in the community in which they live until an ambulance arrives to take over.



Jon Wilson (back left), medical devices manager at the Welsh Ambulance Service, and head of clinical services Richard Lee with BHF Cymru staff on the stand.

The regional First Responder Officer, Tony Rossetti, and Community First Responder, Bryan Foley, were recruiting volunteers from the Barry Rotary Club.

Tony said: "First Responders play an

important role alongside frontline ambulance staff in making sure patients get appropriate help quickly and efficiently. "You can make a big difference by just carrying out a few simple skills that we can teach you."

Also at the Ffônnon Castle event were Richard Lee, head of clinical services at the Welsh Ambulance Service, and medical devices manager Jon Wilson, who joined forces with the British Heart Foundation (BHF) Cymru on its stand to demonstrate life-saving CPR to the crowds.

BHF Cymru was promoting its 'No Time To Wait' appeal, a Wales-wide fundraising initiative

to enable more people to be trained in emergency life-support skills and to place more defibrillators in locations across Wales, with help from the Welsh Ambulance Service.

Richard said: "Once somebody suffers a cardiac arrest every minute counts. As well as good quality CPR, the patient needs to be treated with a defibrillator. We are delighted to support BHF Cymru's 'No Time To Wait' appeal."

He added: "We taught visitors at the event how to administer CPR and how to use a defibrillator. Hopefully, they went away feeling confident they could give someone a chance of survival in a real emergency."

Penarth Ramblers view a tidal phenomenon

ON bank holiday Sunday, Robin and his cocker spaniel, Pepper, took their band of walkers up above Blaenavon, along the ridge of Mynydd y Garn Fawr.

Following a road, they descended, stopping for coffee overlooking the Usk Valley before continuing downhill to cross overgrown fields to a lovely path around Coed y Prior woods and views towards Llanellen.

Eventually reaching the Brecon and Monmouth canal, with canal barges and pleasure craft making the most of the holiday weather, they sat on a farm bridge for lunch.

Challenged by a field of tall rapeseed, they managed to get through with the aid of a wooden stick, closely followed by a wade through nettles, then a dry bog totally overgrown with brambles and tall grass.

Fortunately, the Goose and Cuckoo Inn at Llanover was next on the agenda for a cooling drink and rest, amid people enjoying the beer festival before the steady climb to the top of the ridge and the short journey back to the start.

SEVERN BORE

Making sure they got to Garden Cliff early, William was joined by 14 walkers keen to view the Severn Bore when it made its way around a bend in the Severn Estuary on its journey to Gloucester and, although only classed as a three star bore, it was pretty impressive, with canoeists and surfers doing their best to keep up with the surging tidal wave.

They even had chance to chat to the pilot of a microlite who was filming the event and had temporarily landed his craft on the river bank.

As they journeyed upstream past feisty cattle, spotting peregrine falcons and a hare on the way, the trees were covered with mistletoe, apples, pears, plums and damsons. After lunch beside the river, the group turned inland, crossing the busy A48 to enter gentle meadows with glorious views of the surrounding English countryside.

After picking wild field mushrooms, they tramped by road, bridge and field to return to Westbury-on-Severn, where the village is dominated by the church dedicated to St Mary, St Peter and St Paul with a wooden spire standing at 153-feet.

On September 7, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 12-mile hard walk, taking in the Sirhowy and Ebbw valleys along the Raven Walk; contact Geraint on 029 2051 5278.

On September 10, the mid-week walk will leave Cogan at 9am for a nine-mile moderate walk from Parc Penallta, taking in Eglwysilan Common; contact Val on 029 2059 5791.

Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

Nearly-new sale

NCT will hold a nearly-new sale at Barry Comprehensive School, Port Road West, on Sunday, September 15, from 11am - 12.30pm.

Entrance/suggested donation £1/adult. Baby/children's clothes, toys, equipment (eg prams) and maternity wear. Sellers contact Julie on 01656 662564 to pre-register or email nctnearlynewsales@live.co.uk.

Donations, cakes and raffle prizes gratefully received. Proceeds in aid of National Childbirth Trust Vale and Valleys branch. Donations to support work welcome, www.nct.org.uk/in-your-area/south-wales.

PACT meetings

CADOC PACT, Palmerston Community and Learning Centre, Barry, September 11 at 6pm.

Gibbonsdown PACT, Residents Board Office, Coychurch Rise, Barry, September 17 at 10.30am.

Court PACT, The Scout Hall, Ilminster

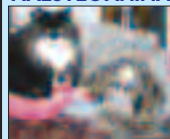
Street, Barry, September 19 at 6pm.

Plymouth PACT, Brockhill Community Centre, Penarth on September 11 at 7pm.

Rhoose PACT at Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhoose, September 11 at 6pm.

Llantwit PACT at Llantwit Recreation Centre, September 18 at 7pm.

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TWO MEN ARE JAILED FOR 'HORRIFIC' ATTACK

A PUB employee was a victim of an "horrific", unprovoked attack at the hands of two men as he walked home from work in Barry, writes AJ SICLUNA.

Tony Dell was punched, kicked and stamped on the head.

Cardiff Crown Court

heard that at one stage, a woman shouted at the pair: "Why don't you stop being bullies?"

Sonny Hannah (18) of Laleston Close, Barry, and Thomas Jenkins (19) of Winston Road, Barry, each admitted a charge of causing actual bodily harm.

Hannah, who had been in custody for 46 days,

was sentenced to a detention training order for a year, and Jenkins was sent to a young offender institution for 15 months.

Judge Philip Richards said: "This was an horrific attack on a young man. Fortunately, without any thanks to you, he escaped with injuries which were not gravely serious."

He added: "But I am

sure the attack caused him a great deal of fear. It would be outrageous if persons such as you, who behaved in a vicious, violent way, should escape with a non-custodial sentence."

Prosecutor Nicholas Gareth Jones said that in the early hours of May 7, Mr Dell, who was in his early 20s, was walking home along Merthyr Dyfan Road.

A car containing the defendants drove past and he was shouted at.

They got out, and he was punched in the face by Jenkins, who said: "You are a ... grass". Mr Dell didn't understand, and Jenkins punched him again.

Hannah grabbed him,

punched him to the head and dragged him into the road.

The two defendants, said Mr Jones, had hold of him and he was punched in the lower back and stamped to the head.

"He could not see properly, and was kicked several times," added the prosecution.

The pair returned to the car and drove off, and Mr Dell called 999. But soon after, the defendants found him hiding in a garden. When a police van appeared, Mr Dell said: "Do what you want, the coppers are here."

The men were arrested and Mr Dell was physically sick.

Jenkins claimed he

had separated Hannah and Mr Dell, and Hannah said he delivered just one punch.

Said Mr Jones: "This was a wholly unprovoked attack in the street."

Jenkins was said to have a conviction for affray, and Hannah convictions for causing damage, affray and possessing an offensive weapon.

Kevin Seal, for Jenkins, said he had written to the victim expressing remorse and had hoped to join the Army.

It was not, said Mr Seal, in any way a revenge attack.

"Jenkins should never have become involved. He has let himself and his family down, and he has no-one to blame but himself."

Adam Sharpe, for Hannah, said: "This case has had a great impact on him. His confrontation was inexcusable."

At an early age, he said, Hannah had had behavioural problems and had not received any education. A brother, aged 22, died from a heroin overdose.

"With assistance, he could turn things around," said Mr Sharpe.

Jenkins was ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £100, and Hannah a victim surcharge of £20.

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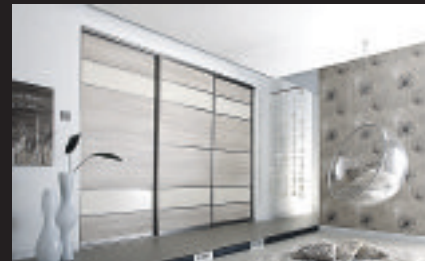
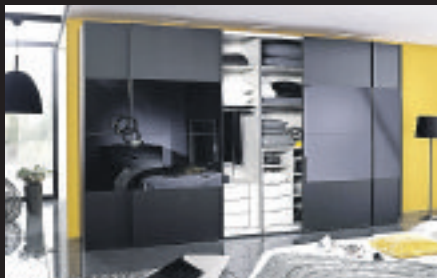
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This is what happened last year!
Dyma beth ddigwyddodd y llynedd!

BAY'S LATEST IS ALL PAIN, BUT NO GAIN!

MICHAEL BAY has been something of a whipping boy for film critics, his films being accused of relying too heavily on CGI and bombast rather than actual storytelling, and of looking superb but lacking in substance.

It's a criticism that the director attempts to address with *Pain And Gain*, a true story that tells of how three body-builders (Mark Wahlberg, Dwayne Johnson and Anthony Mackie), tired of seeing others make money and live the high life, are caught up in an extortion and kidnapping scheme that soon spirals wildly out of control, putting their lives at risk...

Love him or loathe him, you know what you're getting from Michael Bay: high-octane action, fast cars, scantily-clad women, golden sunsets, his directorial style playing like a checklist.

Given that he achieves this on a huge budget, the thought of seeing Bay make a film on a lower scale, a more intimate picture, with a story he has long wanted to bring to screen was an intriguing one – would the director tame his excesses and produce something with subtlety and nuance.

The answer is, perhaps unsurprisingly, no. *Pain And Gain* a lurid, gaudy tale of greed, deceit and bodybuilding that looks just like every other Michael Bay film and has the same defect that every Michael Bay film has – that beneath its



by GARETH JAMIESON
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shiny hood lies an empty shell devoid of any humanity or connection.

That the events of the film are true makes it even more shocking, but fitting that it's Bay who brings it to the big screen. It's almost a noir, but dripping in Day-Glo and soundtrack by rap and rock music (think the Coens' *Blood Simple* but far more tasteless), and while Bay may have a lower budget, he doesn't scrimp on the gun fights, fast cars and action.

There is a sense of a film director trying to reconnect with his base motives, the use of handheld cameras and clever editing giving the film a style and panache, but it all feels so very Bay.

The performances follow a similar path, with the elements played for (black) comedic effect rather than the harrowing story that it could have been, and while Mark Wahlberg continues to show the makings of a good comedy actor, the

likes of Dwayne Johnson, Anthony Mackie and Rebel Wilson manage to wring the pathos out of their characters when not involved in the ridiculous story.

The main problem with *Pain And Gain* is that there's just no character you can connect with – all these people are just a gallery of grotesques, caught up in their own selfish worlds, with the most forgivable characters downplayed in favour of the more morally bankrupt ones.

With Bay returning to the comforting world of *Transformers* for his next film, his diversion into low-key filmmaking doesn't herald the hoped-for results.

While the strength of a true artist can be measured by their success when stripped down to their basic elements, when you strip Michael Bay down all you get is just more of the same – and that's not necessarily a good thing.

VERDICT – A film that takes a ridiculous real-life story and manages to make it even more ridiculous, *Pain And Gain* needs to be watched with a sense of irony. With morally bankrupt characters, there is little humanity on the film, something that the flashy visuals can't manage to mask. **Poor.**

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Bad Boys* (1995), *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* (2002)

Countdown to Cowbridge Music Festival begins!

THE fourth Cowbridge Music Festival is just around the corner! Starting on Friday, September 13, with six concerts and over 20 top musicians from all over Europe, it promises to live up to the reputation it has already gained for bringing great classical music to Cowbridge and the Vale.

The festival always tries to appeal to as many music lovers as possible by providing a wide variety of classical music from all periods and genres. It opens with a concert of three of the greatest piano trios, played by the Sitkovetsky Trio, three young stars already enjoying an international reputation. They play Brahms, Mendelssohn and Schubert.

Then on September 14, celebrated tenor Wynne Evans joins the classical folk group Tri I Dve – making a return visit – to take the festival audience on a musical journey across Europe, from Wales to their homelands, with their own special take on traditional songs with virtuoso instrumental accompaniment.

On September 16, string players from Wales, Switzerland, Germany, Hungary and Iceland, including some familiar figures from previous years, come to Cowbridge again to form the Festival Camerata – and perform one of the best known and popular of the larger chamber works, the Mendelssohn *Octet*. Elgar and Vivaldi are also in the programme.

The Young Artists' Recital on September 20 features one of Wales' most gifted young musi-

cians, cellist Steffen Morris, with Swiss pianist Lucas Buclin, well known from previous years as the festival's silent movie pianist. His programme will include a specially commissioned piece by young Cowbridge composer, Gareth Moorcraft, as well as sonatas by Debussy and Franck.

Seven more young musicians, three cellists and four singers, will be honing their skills in a day of masterclasses at Cowbridge Comprehensive School on September 21, with the expert help of singer Gary Griffiths and cellist Alice Neary.

This event starts at 10am for the cellists and 2pm for the singers. Entrance is free.

In the evening, something quite different can be heard in the Ballroom of the Duke of Wellington. O Duo, two much sought-after stars from the world of percussion, play a dazzling programme of music from three centuries.

The festival closes on September 27, with a concert that is sure to appeal to all lovers of vocal and harp music. Two of Wales' favourite young performers, baritone Gary Griffiths and harpist Hannah Stone, Royal Harpist to Prince Charles, perform a variety of songs by Mozart, Britten, Schubert, Wagner and Handel.

Apart from O Duo and the Masterclass Day, all the concerts are in Holy Cross Church. Tickets (£12 adults, £10 concessions, £1 children and students) are available from Xantippe on Cowbridge High Street or on-line via the website www.cowbridgemusicfestival.co.uk

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In Business Update

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Vale of Glamorgan Council

cabinet member for the environment and visible services, Coun Rob Curtis, suggests: "There are plenty of types of aerosol that can be included in your blue bag or green recycling box in the Vale."

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Some of the lower rates have high fees, which means you

could pay more overall than a deal with lower fees, or you may need a large deposit to qualify for the lower rate.

Consider also the rate of interest your mortgage reverts to at the end of the initial deal period, and if you will be able to afford an increase in monthly payments.

Think about the costs of surveys and legal fees (some lenders offer to cover these costs), the type of mortgage that would suit you best, and the length of time for which you are prepared to be tied-in to your deal.

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Golden highlights of summer camp as Scouts prepare to go for bronze

THIS year, Penarth Explorer Scout Summer Activity Week was held at the Dolygaer Scout centre in the Brecon Beacons National Park.

The building is situated on the platform of the old railway station that served the mineral line from Merthyr to Talybont.

The newly-extended Brecon Mountain railway now passes the station; unfortunately the train doesn't stop – so alternative means of transport was used to get everybody there.

With eight members of Les Pugh's Own and three from Storm Explorer units attending, it was felt that a challenging start to camp would be appropriate. At midday on Sunday August 11, they were dropped off at the canal basin in Brecon by their parents, and met by their leaders.

It was a fine day and after a quick packed lunch they began to sort out their canoeing and overnight equipment. The first stage of camp was for them to canoe some six miles along the Brecon canal to a small village at Talybont-on-Usk, where they would camp out the night.

RATIONS
The trip went fairly smoothly with only a few encounters with the canal bank and they were left to their own devices for the night, having been issued with 24 hour army ration packs to ensure they had enough of the correct food.

The following morning, they were back on the canal for a further eight miles down to Llangatock. The first obstacle was the 343m long Ashford tunnel, where James led the way, making sure no boats were coming the other way.

Further down, a few locks needed to be negotiated, before arriving on time at Llangatock to be picked up and taken to the main accommodation at Dolygaer.

That evening was spent sorting themselves out into work groups as each day they would have the responsibility for cooking and cleaning.

Tuesday dawned and an early start took them to Graig-Y-Ddinas at Pontneddfechan in the Neath Valley.

Here they were to try an activity new to them, gorge walking. First getting kitted out in wet-suits, and safety gear, they found a suitable spot on the river bank, then jumped in.

Just under two hours was spent negotiating the river and its banks, scrambling up waterfalls,



ducking into churning pools of rushing water.

On return to site, a warming shower was taken before the next challenge, again something new. Dolygaer is situated mid-way between the Pontsticill and Pentwyn reservoirs and is surrounded by woodland, though very picturesque they had little time to admire it.

They were given a series of team challenges, where they had to transport a mug of water around obstacles without touching the floor only using ropes and slings, swaying and toppling their way around, at one stage Jennie resorted to clutching the mug handle in her teeth, at least this kept her quiet for a while.

A slightly later start on Wednesday again saw them at Pontneddfechan – this time the day threatened rain.

The Glyn Neath Valley offers some of the finest river waterfall trails in the country, so following old tram lines and scrambling up the sides of water falls, all day was spent admiring the power of water and seeing first-hand how over centuries the rivers Mellte and Neath have carved their way through the limestone forming gorges and falls. The last fall, Sgwd yr Elra, on the river Hepste, allowed everyone to walk behind.

The early evening activity saw the first stages of walking stick making, where the antler handles and blackthorn shafts were prepared, previous woodworking sessions paid dividends as progress was swift.

This allowed them several hours indoor climbing at Llangorse where Alasdair conquered the tree climb.

Thursday dawned with an early start. The group were introduced to all aspects of dinghy sailing and then let loose on the reservoir, thankfully Martin was spotted drifting away and hauled back to the group.

After several hours' practice of ducking under the jib and tacking back and forth, they became remarkably proficient, having several capsize thrown in, before a final race finished the day.

Friday was a relaxing day with some indoor water play on an inflatable assault course in the morning. Then it was into the town of Brecon to search out a useful item for £1 and the necessary items to cook a meal for 32 at £4.

Saturday, and another early start – this time off to the Porth yr Ogof cave system to explore below the waterfalls they'd walked around previously – crawling and squeezing through small gaps into large caverns.

The final day (Sunday) came all too soon; with each room cleaned and all packed, the explorers were dropped into Carfartha Castle where the task was to produce a 15 minute documentary on its history and influence of characters associated with Merthyr Tydfil and its industrial past, before catching the last train home.

Sunday, 6pm, saw the last off home ready to sleep after an activity-packed week.

Barry RFC Seconds slip to loss

BARRY Second XV ended their pre-season preparations with a tough home fixture against Dinas Powys RFC.

With several key players missing, and player-manager Ken Chow in sole charge of the 2nd XV for the first time, the team had an unsettled look about it from the start.

Chow called up several players from the 3rd XV to make up the starting line-up, and there was also a recall for Lee Turnbull, who made the match day squad for the first time in over 18 months.

Against a well-drilled first team side, Barry had to endure tidal waves of pressure right from the off, as the visitors put huge pressure on the home set pieces.

A lack of cohesion in the scrum, lacking several influential, experienced players, were cruelly exposed by Dinas, who turned the screw as they pinned Barry in their own 22.

It was therefore no surprise that the visitors opened the scoring under the posts, with the conversion a formality.

Barry tried to rally by using their heavy pack of forwards, but were outdone by their own lack of aggression in the rucking area, most probably a sign of match rustiness.

Dinas took full advantage as they threatened to run riot, scoring three more unanswered tries in the first 20 minutes.

The manager made ruthless changes at the interval, both tactically

and in personnel, and was rewarded with a much improved performance.

With veteran Jason Evans rallying the forwards with his experience and know-how, the home side finally strung together a period of pressure which saw them cross the try line via Mike Jones. The conversion, from out wide, was missed by Jordan Flynn.

The game ebbed and flowed in the final period and although Dinas did add more scores near the end, the level of commitment by the Barry players was commendable, the game finishing 41-5.

The management, however, will be worried by the number of injuries to the players, which saw seven of his squad limp off, meaning that Chow himself had to take the field towards the end. He will hope to have more of his experienced players available next weekend as he looks to rotate the squad.

Barry 2nd XV will begin their league season on September 14 against Cardiff Quins 2nd XV at home, while Barry 3rd XV will face Whitechurch 2nd XV a weekend earlier, also at Reservoir Fields.

Team: Lee; M Jones, Gooderham, White, R Case; Williams, Corrigan; Heard, Hosking (c), Ring; Elsworth, K Case; Lee Jones, Thomas, Evans. **Replacements:** Houldey, Turnbull, Hall, Lloyd Jones, Harrison, Flynn, Bounds, Chow. **Man-of-the-match:** Evans.

KC

CADOXTON BOWLERS CELEBRATES FINALS DAY

DUE to Cardiff City's first home game in the Premier League, the Cadoxton competition finals were mainly played on the Sunday. The two played on Saturday were the Two Bowl and the Triples.

Tony Bishop was successful in the Two Bowl against David Evans. Both players struggled to find the form which brought them to this stage. However Tony had an easy win with a 13 shot lead with just 6 ends left.

The Triples produced some good entertainment with the score fluctuating throughout the game. Leads Dennis Hammond and Jamie Ferguson had a tight battle between them. A similar situation continued with seconds, Glen Solomon and Dave Tuck.

The first success went to Ivor Robertson's rink by taking a 4-1 lead. This was overcome during the next two ends, only to drop behind again after two '3s' against. The next five ends retrieved the lead once more for the rink skipped by Roy Harding at 11-13. However, a decisive '5' changed the ascendancy once more, which was held until the end.

On Sunday five finals were held. Four of these were singles competitions, culminating with the Pairs.

Two of the singles competitions were disappointing for the spectators as they were one sided affairs.

Tony Phillips, following his win on Saturday, was well beaten in the championship by Len Davies, with just five successful ends. Len took a 13-0 lead before conceding two ends. It took a further ten ends to finalise the match.

David Evans with a 1 shot handicap reversed his bad result from Sunday with a comprehensive win against Kelvin Chedgoy in the Handicap. He progressed to a 14-1 lead before Kelvin scored a '2', to stop the run. Nevertheless David carried on the complete the win.

Derek Brook met Howard Hellyar in the Jack Hartman Trophy, and made an impressive 14-4 start. Howard won the next 3 ends with two '3s' and a single to close the gap considerably. However the promise of a recovery was not continued Derek ended up another comfortable winner.

The Novices competition was played during the morning between

Karl Cowling and Jim Stacey, as Karl had another commitment, later in the Pairs.

This was a much more competitive game with both players performing well. There was nothing much in it for the first ten ends, with the scores tied on 2, 3, 4, and then 6-7 advantage to Jim.

Karl recovered the lead on the next, and held one shot lead after 14 ends. Four winning ends during, the next five, at last opened a reasonable gap in Karl's favour. The difference was again reduced two singles and a '2' but Karl finished the game off with a '3'.

The afternoon brought Karl into action once more with partner Jim Davies against Dave Tuck in his second final and partnered with Don Kuhnell.

The game was a classical performance by the four competitors with each side taking supremacy during the match.

The early part of the game started in Don's favour. Twice an advantage was built, only to see the scores levelled with a count on each occasion. Then the scores see-sawed to and fro, with the Karl and Dave fighting for an advantage in the lead position, both

playing excellent bowls.

The heads were tight and difficult to score counts. However on one rare occasion Don held five shots, but Jim trailed the jack for '2' with his last bowl, to rapturous applause from the thrilled audience.

The number of ends left, were dwindling away, and Karl-Jim held a two shot lead on the penultimate end, but it was Don's turn to pick up a '3' and go into the final end with a one shot lead.

Dave drew a perfect first bowl which stayed throughout the end, with Don making it hard for Jim to get to it, with strategic bowls. This was accomplished for the win.

Championship: Len Davies v T Bishop 21 - 7; **Handicap:** D Evans v K Chedgoy 21 - 8; **Two Bowl:** T Bishop v D Evans 15 - 2; **Novices:** Karl Cowling v Jim Stacey 21 - 15; **J Hartman:** Derek Brook v Howard Hellyar 21 - 12; **Pairs:** Dave Tuck/Don Kuhnell v Karl Cowling/Jim Davies 18 - 16; **Triples:** Dennis Hammond/G Solomon/I Robertson v Jamie Ferguson/Dave Tuck/R Harding 18 - 16.

DK

Rhose FC win

The game between Rhose FC and Llantwit Major was the archetypal 'game of two halves' as Rhose survived a two goal deficit in the first half to fight back strongly with three second half goals to overcome Llantwit Major 3-2 at Jenner Park.

Llantwit took the initiative with two goals in the first half following some defensive 'naivety' from the home side.

However, Rhose came out for the second half with all guns blazing and goals from Richard Yarr and a brace from James Dixon securing the points for Rhose.

The second Dixon goal (and the winner) was a classic following a low, pin point shot from outside the penalty area and a goal worthy of winning any match.

Rhose FC 3 - Newport Civil Service 3
Again defensive mishaps cost Rhose dearly on Saturday in this Welsh league 3rd Division clash at Jenner Park.

The home side went two up in quick time in

the first half from brilliantly taken goals from new acquisition Jacob Daley – the second goal from a rasping 25 yard shot which left the Newport 'keeper grasping thin air!

However, it was a case of déjà vu in the second half with three defensive errors costing the home side dear and a chance to move well into the top half of the league table.

This was after Rhose had moved into a 3-1 lead and seemingly cruising with 20 minutes to go following a third Rhose goal from Joe Hinds.

Rhose will have to learn and learn very quickly if they have ambitions to move up the league and challenge for promotion places this season. As they found to their cost that you really get punished for defensive lapses at this level.

Rhose travel to Aberdare Town on Saturday in the Nathaniel Car Sales League Cup and host Merthyr Saints the following week in the Welsh Cup at Jenner park, before returning to league action on Saturday, August 21 by 'hosting' Barry Town at Jenner Park in the Vale derby.

AP

BOWLS CLUB HOLDS ITS ANNUAL FINALS

RHOSE Bowling Club held their club finals day on Saturday August 31.

The day began with the men's and ladies' two bowl singles competitions. The men's final was between brothers Anthony and Darren Parsons.

On the 10th end the score was 6 shots to 7 in favour of Anthony and from this point he scored every end to win by 11 shots to 6.

In the ladies final Mo Dutton faced Jo Hopkins. Mo took an early lead and on the eighth end led by 8 shots to 2. Jo then rallied winning the next six ends now leading by 10 shots to 8.

Mo levelled the game on the next end so the game rested on the final end. This saw Mo securing one shot to win the match by the narrowest of margins.

These matches were followed by the four bowl pairs. Tony Lages and Anthony Parsons faced Chris Ashdown and his brother Darren. Chris and Darren were steam rolled to defeat losing the match by 28 shots to 9.

In the ladies match Jo Hopkins was partnered by Rachel Oxley Green and their opponents were Anita Shears and Mo Dutton. Jo and Rachel built up a steady lead throughout the match eventually winning by 22 shots to 17.

After a short break for lunch the afternoon commenced with the four bowl mixed pairs match. Darren Parsons was in action again and this time his partner was Sue Dance. Their opponents were Colin Ashdown and Jo

Hopkins.

In a fluctuating match Darren and Sue were behind by 5 shots to 6 on the sixth end. Jo and Colin won the next three ends and now had a 5 shot lead.

However the crucial end was the 15th when Jo and Colin scored 6 shots eventually winning by 20 shots to 10.

The final matches of the day the 4 bowl singles proved to be the most exciting. New member Terry Martin faced the previous year's club champion Anthony Parsons.

Terry took an early lead only for Anthony to fight back so that on the 13th end both players were level with 12 shots each. Anthony now drew ahead to lead by 19 shots to 16 only for Terry to score on the next three ends to win by 21 shots to 19.

In the ladies final Jo Hopkins was again in action and this time her opponent was Rita Craig. Jo again built up a steady lead and by the 17th end led by 20 shots to 10. Rita fought back and on the 22nd end the match was level 20 shots each. On the final end Rita held the winning shot only for Jo to remove it with her last but one bowl so winning by 22 shots to 20.

The day concluded with a barbecue produced by club members. Finally, club chairman Brian Shears brought the evening to a close by congratulating all the bowlers and thanking those members who had helped to run the successful day.

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'Yappy hour' a big hit with canine coffee lovers!



COWBRIDGE residents brought their canine pets to a town coffee shop for a special Dogs Trust celebration last Sunday (September 1).

The event was entitled 'Yappy Hour' and was staged at Costa Coffee to raise funds for two charities.

Dogs Trust's manager in Cowbridge, Jael Jones, said: "Our charity shop and Costa have built up a brilliant relationship, and they have a Dogs Trust bookstand in their store and always advertise our shop events."

"They didn't hesitate to offer us their garden for the event, and so we

PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK.

decided that we would also raise money for the Costa Foundation as a 'thank you' to Marie and her staff."

Dog owners and their pooches were treated to a complimentary coffee of their choice, and home-made dog biscuits for their four-legged friends on arrival.

Guests could purchase home-made decorated cupcakes and dog biscuits made by staff of the charity shop, and buy tickets to win one of 14 generous raffle prizes, including lunch for two at Costa and a Dogs Trust hamper.

SPECIAL GUEST

Jael said: "We were joined by Alexander Mills from *The Apprentice*, who judged the fun dog show."

"Alex was a fantastic judge who took his job very seriously, spending time meeting every dog and owner there, taking time to hear their stories and making informed decisions on who should win each category."

"Many of the people at the event commented on how nice this was."

"It was so lovely to award the black and yellow rosettes, hand made by a shop volunteer, to

the winners.

"The winners were Peggy (glamorous girl), Charlie (handsome hound), Bear (best rescue), Tiger Lily (dog who looked most like its owner) and Darcey, a rescue from Dogs Trust Bridgend, named 'Dog The Judge Would Like To Take Home'."

"Our thanks go to all the dogs and their owners for coming and joining in the fun, Alex Mills for being our fantastic judge, staff of Costa Cowbridge, raffle prize donors, and shop volunteers who helped on the day."

"It was such a successful event, raising almost £200, that we will definitely be holding another 'Yappy Hour' in the future."



ABOVE (left to right): Michelle Underhill and Jael Jones from the Dogs Trust, Apprentice Alex Mills, Ingrid Sullivan and Lauren Griffin (Dogs Trust volunteers), and Marie Sadler (Costa Coffee manager).



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IMPORTANT! We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. LETTERS AND EMAILS MUST INCLUDE FULL ADDRESS AND A CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER. AN EMAIL ADDRESS ALONE IS NOT SUFFICIENT!

We will (in certain circumstances) protect a writer's identity, if requested. Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, DON JOHN, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7E OR email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

Wartime letter prompts search

MY nan recently died and our family cleared out her house, where she had paperwork and souvenirs from her husband Frank's service during World War Two.

Frank Griffin was born in 1915 and was a chemical worker from Widnes in Cheshire. He died of a heart attack in the 1970s.

He served with the 3rd Battalion The Monmouthshire Regiment and fought in northern Europe during 1944 and 1945.

Amongst his old possessions in the house was a letter from a Mrs Allen, 2C Queen Street (over Williams and Sons), Bridgend, Glamorgan, south Wales.

The letter appears to be a reply from the mother of a killed soldier who was friends with Frank.

Mrs Allen says she is very glad that Jack is still in Frank's thoughts. She also thanks my grandfather for offering to visit.

She wrote: "My husband and I would really be very pleased to see you and we are most grateful for your kind offer, because to talk with someone who was with Jack at the time would mean so much."

I would be grateful if any readers who know anything about Jack Allen, or Mrs Allen, get in touch with me via steveb1000@hotmail.co.uk.

My grandfather died before I was born, but I have always been interested in his military service.

The war had a big effect on him and he said little about his time in the army, so it would be great to have more information.

Stephen Bailey
Widnes, Cheshire

Taken for a ride...

IN your letters section, I was very interested in a reported 'scam', as I have been taken for a ride on two occasions.

I was a customer of a catalogue company and received a letter stating that I was a good customer. A sum of money (in 100s) had been put aside for me to stake my claim.

I kept getting forms to fill in, and also to place an order. When I received my award I had

a cheque for pence, not enough to buy a 2nd class stamp.

I returned it to say I felt insulted and no longer wish to deal with them.

On another occasion there was a similar letter involving me having to place an order for £12.99 plus PP £4.99. Finally I received the princely sum of £1.38!

In spite of cancelling my custom, I am still receiving unwanted material from them. Is there any way to stop this kind of thing? Name and address supplied.

Drama group delighted senior citizens' group

ON behalf of Friends and Neighbours' senior citizens group, I would like to take the opportunity of thanking Superstars in The Making for their Excellent Production of *Grease* at Barry Memorial Hall.

They attended the matinee performance as part of their programme, which includes visits to shows.

The show was enjoyed immensely

by all 30 members of the group, who commented on the high standard shown by all of the cast.

The costumes were colourful and the singing and dancing were of the highest calibre. The confidence of the cast as they sang their hearts out showed on their faces.

Friends and Neighbours had the pleasure of Superstars in The Making entertain them at Christmas so it was a pleasure to see them again.

Gay Fifield, coordinator (Friends and Neighbours)

Austerity: Why are the MPs exempt?

IN last week's GEM, Vale MP Alun Cairns again attacked the Assembly Government's spending cuts.

He states his postbag is full of concerns over Vale bus services.

Anyone with worries about the bus service, should contact a Vale councillor or their Assembly member – Mr Cairns can do nothing to help.

He should be contacted if constituents have a problem with coalition policy, such as where are the smaller properties for people affected by the bedroom tax to be able to move?

...Or why is child poverty at its highest level for 50 years?

He could be asked how long it will be

before MPs are going to be affected by austerity cuts. Bars and restaurants in the House of Commons are subsidised by over £7 million yearly – so an MP on over £66,000 plus expenses, enjoys cheap food and drink.

Any MP who stays in the Commons after 7pm gets £15 meal allowance. Any MP voted out of office won't have to go to the job centre or food bank, as all MPs who lose their seat get a year's money for nothing (that's over £1,260 per week). All paid for by the taxpayer.

Why are MPs exempt from austerity measures? G Smith, Llantwit Major

Macmillan coffee

ON Friday, September 27, NFU Mutual Kelly & Harris Agency will be taking part again in The World's Biggest Coffee Morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support at the Bridgend and The Vale agency between 10am and 12.30pm.

Macmillan was voted by NFU Mutual staff as their charity until the end of 2014, and are hoping to raise over £250,000 from fundraising events.

Ambulance medic Nigel set for Afghanistan mission

FOUR Welsh Ambulance Service staff are preparing to travel to Afghanistan – to put their life-saving skills to use in a military hospital in Camp Bastion.

They include emergency medical technician (EMT) Nigel Smith, of the Hazardous Area Response Team (HART) based in Bridgend, will work 'front of house' at the hospital, ensuring patients are disarmed before they undergo treatment.

The father-of-four was a member of the Royal Army Medical Corps, before he joined the Welsh Ambulance Service, and has already seen action in Bosnia, the Falklands and Northern Ireland.

It will be his second visit to Afghanistan, following deployment in 2008 when he worked in an emergency department. Nigel, 48, from Aberbargoed, said: "My first time in Afghanistan was quite daunting, but I'll know what to expect



NIGEL SMITH.

on this tour. I'm there to do a job, and I will do it to the best of my ability."

Fibromyalgia support

THE next meeting of the Vale of Glamorgan Fibromyalgia Support Group is on Tuesday, September 10 at 11am-1pm. Telephone Gaynor for more details, on 01446 733315.



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Workclubs are available at the following libraries:

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Penarth, Stanwell Road, Penarth • Tel: 02920 708438

For more information, contact your library to book a place, or check out the website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/libraries for dates and times.
 You can attend as many times as you need, we're always there to help.



HQ2 The Salon celebrates 10 years of styling success

THIS well-established four-star salon was started in 2003 by Dawn, who has now promoted her daughter, Jaydene, to salon manager.

The busy salon offers all the latest techniques in hairdressing and is well known throughout the Vale of Glamorgan for specialising in pop-

ular Balmain hair extensions.

Jaydene says: "We are always looking to improve our services to our customers. We offer expert advice and good products."

For a dedicated hairdressers that has stood the test of time, HQ2 The Salon, Holton Road, Barry, is the place to go for your new autumn styles.

Call 01446 400102 for an appointment.

Owl Manor celebrates first birthday

OWL MANOR isn't just a guest house - it's also a teaching and healing centre for Angelic Reiki healing and meditation sessions.

Meditation and healing is not just for the already enlightened and spiritual amongst us but for all manner of conditions and reasons.

Doctors are even recommending meditation and healing now for conditions such as stress and cancer and so much more.

Dr Hilary Jones rec-

ommended meditation on Celestial Radio recently. Meditation is great for creating a period of peace and calm in our busy lives.

The healing and meditations are held at Barry Island Community Centre every month and also at Owl Manor Guesthouse.

We have events for meditation and Reiki taking place every month between now and December. Please contact us for further information.

Contact Cheryl on 07450 831 328 or 01446 621909, email cheryl.sangels@hotmail.co.uk; www.owlmanor.co.uk.

Mind Body Spirit Event

Sunday 29th September 2013

Barry Island Community Centre
11am-4pm

TICKET ENTRY COST £1.00

+ RAFFLE TICKETS STRIP £1.00

(raffle money collected donated to Ty Hafan Childrens' Charity)

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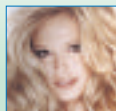
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Introducing the Inman Aligner...

UNTIL now, the alternatives to straightening front teeth involved either long and expensive orthodontic treatments or destructive and expensive restorative treatments such as veneers or crowns.

Even ultrathin veneers involve heavy reduction of natural teeth when used to align crowding or protrusion.

But with the arrival of the Inman Aligner, all that has changed. It is a cost-effective removable orthodontic appliance that moves teeth in a fraction of the time of

other systems.

It aligns crowded or protruding anterior teeth with two opposing spring-loaded aligner bars. This provides gentle but continuous pressure over a large range of movement.

Surprisingly, this gentle pressure is the quickest way to move teeth but it also makes treatment very safe and kind to teeth.

People love the speed of treatment and it's changing the face of dentistry as we know it. The average treatment time is only four-to-16 weeks, and now with concerns over economy, it's a more justifiable expense.

Only certified Inman Aligner dentists can provide this, and Dr Owain Joyson of Porthkerry Dental Centre has achieved this certification.

Dr Owain Joyson said: "The Inman Aligner is the greatest innovation in dentistry of recent years. It's fast, affordable and kind to teeth."

"It really is the best way to straighten crowded front teeth." For further details, please visit www.porthkerrydental.co.uk. To book an appointment, contact Porthkerry Dental Care on 01446 735395.

LEARN TO REBALANCE YOUR LIFE AT BAREFOOT STUDIO

SEPTEMBER is a time of change, and the perfect time to re-balance your life, and get that healthy energised feeling.

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We can help you to enjoy an active, healthy and happy lifestyle.

Co-founder of Barefoot Studio, Karen Ingram, said: "I'm really proud of Barefoot Studio, it brings together all the things that have helped me recover from a serious back problem to become the healthy, active person I am today."

"We specialise in Pilates and offer classes for all levels, from chronic back pain sufferers to professional athletes."

"All our classes are in groups of no more than 12 people, ensuring individual attention and a quality workout."

"Our therapists are really talented, and can address the many health issues we all face, like stress, back pain, muscle imbalances, and digestive issues, to name a few."

Fontygary club welcomes you!

WITH the kids back in school and time on your hands, why not join us at the Bay Health and Fitness Club in Fontygary Leisure Park?

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If you have never used a gym before, you don't have to feel intimidated as our staff are on hand to show you exactly how each piece of equipment works.

We offer a warm welcome to everyone. Don't take our word for it - why not come down and see for yourself? (or call Jennie or Mark on 01446 710386.

Remember, Fontygary Leisure Park is completely open to the public!

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For further information please contact

Jennie on 01446 710386

or why not just pop down and have a look around? We are confident that you will like what you see...

Bring this advert with you - NO JOINING FEE!

Karen has recently qualified as a level-4 lower back pain specialist and has been asked by Peak Pilates to become a master instructor. She travels to Texas in October to begin her training and in 2014, Barefoot Studio will be offering a comprehensive Pilates instructor qualification.

Barefoot Studio has its own free car park and is easy to find in Cowbridge. Pop in or ring the Studio to find out more about the range of treatments, classes and courses we offer; or visit www.barefootstudio.co.uk.

Zumba Gold for feelgood factor

ZUMBA GOLD targets the largest growing segment of the population - baby boomers. It takes the Zumba formula and modifies the moves and pacing to suit the needs of the active older participant, as well as those just starting their journey to a fit and health lifestyle.

What stays the same are all the elements the Zumba Fitness Party is known for; the zesty Latin music, like salsa, merengue, cumbia and reggaeton; the exhilarating, easy-to-follow moves; and the invigorating, party-like atmosphere.

Active older adults want camaraderie, excitement and fitness as a regular part of their weekly schedule.

Zumba Gold is the perfect fit. It's a dance-fitness class that feels

friendly, and most of all, fun.

We have many stories to tell now we are celebrating one year on in Barry, where ladies' osteoporosis has improved, with weight loss, anti-depression, more movement, climbing stairs without getting out of breath... the list goes on. It's very rewarding seeing all my ladies and gents laughing and having fun, having a better quality of life, it's a real pleasure.

It is priceless for me to know that we are making a big difference to many people's lives.

Come and join my lovely ladies and gentlemen in the first Zumba Gold classes in Barry.

Zumba Gold gives you the feelgood factor, guaranteed to have a giggle, releasing the feelgood endorphins. It's good for most conditions, giving you more flexibility, strength, stamina - the list goes on.

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Monday	11.45 - 12.30	Highlight Park
Monday	18.15 - 19.00	Highlight Park
Wednesday	10.00 - 10.45	Sully Old School
Wednesday	11.30 - 12.15	Highlight Park

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Barry ladies start season with a win

BARRY ladies welcomed Gorseinon to the Reservoir Fields for their first fixture of their season.

The game started brightly and from dominant forward play, S Williams powered over from short range within the first five minutes.

Yapp then touched down after a pushover try. Barry took their foot off the pedal and Gorseinon came back into the match with two quick tries. Barry managed to regain their composure and made half time 20-10 to the good.

In the second half, Shannahan powered over for the decisive try, to make it 25-5.

The home side scored two late tries, one by

Husk, converted by the cameo appearance of Kim Jones who then capped a brilliant all round team performance by finishing off a fine team move by crossing the whitewash to make the final score 37-10.

Barry and Gorseinon's woman of the match was Steph Williams.

TEAM: K Jones, Phillips, Richards, Hellmore, Cahill, Williams, Young, Yapp (c), Bannister, Rees, Lewis, Britton, Binnie, Young, Nation, Kim Jones. Substitutes: Cushen, Shannahan, G Williams, Husk and Potter.

The Bombettes next entertain Penalta Ladies at home, at 2.30pm this Sunday. **KJ**

Scott Wroe Hearing Centre —PENARTH—



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For more information or to arrange your appointment

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BODYWISE has been trading for 19 years and Jackie, the director, wishes to thank all members of staff and clients for their continued support and custom.

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Bodywise offers decades of experience among the therapists, so clients can rest assured that a true professional will be performing a beauty treatment.

Up-to-date equipment is on hand to carry out such treatments as permanent hair removal, gel manicures, micro-dermabrasion, red vein/skin tag removal, and lash extensions.

Injectable fine line treatments, chemical peels and semi-permanent make-up are also available, carried out by

fully qualified aesthetic technicians.

In addition, Bodywise provides regular promotional offers discounting new and favourite treatments, so look out for the monthly offers by calling into the salon, downloading the Bodywise app or adding us as a friend on Facebook.

Gift vouchers are available – perfect for special occasions or just to say 'thank you' to your someone special.

A loyalty scheme is also in place, so ask for your card when you next visit.

Bodywise is open Monday – Saturday, opening late on Thursdays and Fridays.

Jackie, Clare, Jenny, Tina, Jayne, Gemma, Karen and Rebekah look forward to seeing you at the salon and are dedicated to ensuring that your visit to Bodywise is enjoyable and professional.



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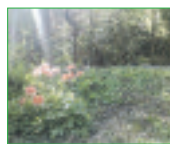
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GOOD quality sleep is vital to our health and well-being; lack of sleep affects many areas of our life and often results in us becoming anxious, short tempered, lacking in energy and motivation, even exhausted.

It can affect our ability to cope with life. Inability to sleep can become an obsession, thus exacerbating the problem. Short periods of sleeplessness can affect us all; however, if it continues, serious health and social problems can result. Tackling sleep difficulties at the earliest opportunity helps to stop them becoming overwhelming.

Solution Focused Hypnotherapy is effective in reducing difficulties which can lead to sleep disorders and work towards restoring good sleep patterns.

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The Business Centre, Barry
www.cardiffhypnotherapysolutions.com

Big year for hockey teams

SATURDAY, September 7, sees the start of one of the most important seasons in Penarth Hockey Club's 103-year history.

Following the agony of late relegation, Penarth 1st XI find themselves competing in The Davis Wood Hockey League De Cymru and The Marches Division 1, a league they dominated the season before.

New captain Mark Thomas will be looking to repeat that dominance, an aim that has received an enormous boost by the appointment of Chris Baker as 1st team coach.

The challenge facing Penarth 2nd XI is somewhat different. This season, the club will continue to field a development side as and when opponents can be secured and have launched a veterans team for those aged 40 and over.

The demise of hockey in schools has led to a serious shortage in new

players taking up the game and joining the club to progress through the various sides.

The work of James Davies and his team of junior coaches has attempted to address this shortfall but with limited success in terms of producing players with the potential to play for the senior men's teams.

The club has appointed Matt Birch as schools liaison officer with the brief to reach out to the schools in the area, both junior and secondary, in an attempt to re-engage and support in any way the club can, a desire to play the game.

The club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers of whatever age and ability.

Training on the Astro Turf has started at Barry Sports Centre, every Wednesday, junior 6pm to 7pm, and senior 7pm till 8pm; further information can be obtained from d.stevens81@hotmail.co.uk. **DS**

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Ark Man' visits Mount Pleasant

MOUNT Pleasant Baptist Church, Cadoxton is hosting the 'Ark Man' Rod Walsh UK tour on Tuesday, September 17 at 7.15 pm.

Australian speaker Rod Walsh has an amazing biblical scale model of Noah's Ark and will be giving a talk on it and the Genesis flood.

Don't miss this unique opportunity to hear Rod as he draws from his 10-year feasibility study, exactly how plausible the biblical Ark was!

For further details contact: secretary@mountpleasantbaptist.org.uk; church

contact number 01446 735915 (answerphone facility).

Leukaemia fundraiser
A CHARITY night fundraiser in aid of leukaemia research, starring Owen Money and the Soul Sharks eight-piece band, is taking place at The Dolphin Pub, Barry Island, on October 6.

Limited tickets are available – at only £18, including chicken and chips. Starts at 7pm.

A fantastic night of music and comedy is in prospect.

For information ring 01446 721888.

Lightning strikes at the Chess Club!

THE Barry Chess Club's summer programme came to an end recently with a 'Lightning' tournament.

This was a seven round Swiss-style tournament whereby every move must be made when the buzzer sounds. For the first 60 moves the buzzer gives players 10 seconds to consider their move and after that only five seconds.

When play commenced the Controller gave a final countdown, ten, nine, eight etc ending with the buzzer for white to make his first move. During the opening moves ten seconds to think can seem like a lifetime. However as the game progresses the allotted ten seconds seems to pass by ever more quickly.

For those of us who have never played a lightning game before it can be hard to hold back when you know what your move will be. I don't know how many times my opponents had to tell me to wait for the buzzer but they were going hoarse by the end of the games.

The players were split into three pots depending on their personal ratings as there is such a disparity between the rating of the best and worst play-

ers. In total there were 14 participants including the return of John Ryles who has not made a competitive appearance at the Barry Chess Club for many years.

The first round features the higher rated players taking on the lower rated players. The only surprise result in this round was the defeat of Ken Hannah by Sam White. After two rounds there were only three players on 100 per cent and only two players yet to trouble the scorers.

The third round saw the bottom two players picking up points and the top two players played out a draw leaving the youngest player, Rhys Steele in the lead on three points out of three. At the midpoint Rhys had lost his first match to slip back into third place behind Steve Cunliffe and Craig Woolcock.

In round five all of the top three players again recorded draws but in round six Rhys earned another victory while Steve and Craig could only earn further draws. As the final round approached Steve, Craig and Rhys were all on four and a half out of six.

The trophy could have gone to any one of them. However in their final round all three of them earned victories so the tournament was decided

on the Sonneborn-Berger tie-break system so Steve Cunliffe took the title with Craig as runner-up and Rhys in third place.

In the U1600 section it was pleasing to see returning old boy John Ryles take the title with a score of three and a half out of seven. The U1400 section was a keenly fought contest with only half a point separating all the players.

Going into the final round of matches John Stephenson held a slender lead over Dave Mahoney and Peter Watkins. In the final round all three players lost but John was able to hold on to top place due to the Sonneborn-Berger tie-break system with Martin Ricketts clutching the runners-up spot both returning with three points out of seven.

The Barry Chess Club meets each Monday at their home venue of The West End Club, St Nicholas Road, Barry, CF62 6QY, with matches starting at 7:30pm. New or prospective players of all ages and standards are sure to receive a warm welcome.

For more details visit our website: barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PJ

Mixed open in the sunshine



THE bank holiday mixed open competition at Brynhill was played in brilliant sunshine.

Many people came from golf courses near and far. It was superb to see so many people in the clubhouse and on the verandah after the competition all enjoying the lovely food supplied by Julie Bannister the caterer.

The winners were Richard Pierce, Derek Coombes, Helena Coombes and Maggie Pierce, and runners up were Jo Kirkpatrick, Mike Harkin, Colin Harkin and Julie Harkin.

JK



Brynhill golf club results

CLUB Championship: winner Scott Bowman, runner-up Jonathon Burrows.

Howell Hughes (Midway): winner Lee Galsworthy, runner-up Glenn Taylor.

Chief Buck Rabbit: winner Tony Davies, runner-up Clive Blake.

Ernest Williams Cup: winner Michael Moore, runner-up Glenn Taylor.

George Williams Cup: winner Clive Blake, runner-up Simon Bowsher.

SENIORS OPEN

55+ winner Alan Collis (Gower) 41 points, runner-up David Hutchenson (Glyn Neath) 38 points, third Keith Jones (Pontypridd) 38 points.

69+ winner John Griffith 39 points, runner-up John Evans (Pontypool) 38 points, third Phil Browne 37 points. Nearest the Line (7th) Mike Lawrence

(Wenvoe): Nearest the Pin (16th) Gary Barrett (Pontypridd).

Dennis Haydon Trophy (senior section): winner John Griffiths 39 points.

CAPTAIN'S PRIZE 2013

Best net score over both days: Andrew Stevens (67 + 70 = 137); Best gross score over both days: Scott Bowman (73 + 76 = 149); Best net Saturday: Dave Dranfield (66); Best gross Saturday: Mat Mullooly (71); Best net Sunday: Aeron Smith (68); Best gross Sunday: Lee Price (75).

Number of competitors: 130, competition standard scratch Saturday: 71, competition standard scratch Sunday: 72.

Holes in one: Gareth Tinnuche (3rd), Alan Sweeney (12th).

HUGH HOWELL CUP

Winner: Tony & Diane Davies, runner-up: Nick & Julie Harkin; number of competitors: 17.

CS

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GROVE ESTATES



REDBERTH CLOSE, BARRY

- A 2 bedroom semi-detached bungalow situated in a quiet cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
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- Scope to extend subject to planning
- Viewings recommended

£127,500



ATLANTIC PLACE, BARRY

- 3 bedroom semi-detached property in quiet cul-de-sac location
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- Driveway to front
- Generous size gardens to front, side & rear
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain.

£125,000



MERTHYR DYFAN ROAD, BARRY

- A 2 bedroom semi detached property in a popular residential area.
- Gas central heating & double glazing
- Good size kitchen/diner with an additional utility room
- Enclosed gardens to front & rear
- Offered freehold with no chain

£115,000



CHURCH COTTAGE, RHOOSE

- Beautifully maintained & extended 3 bedroom semi detached property
- Original cottage dating back to around early 19th century & extended in approx 1980's
- Generously proportioned grounds to rear with parking for approx 5-6 cars
- Balcony accessed from master bedroom with views over Rhosee
- Offered freehold and open to reasonable offers

£255,000



BRYN AWEI, BUTRILLS ROAD, BARRY

- A 4 bedroom detached property in popular location
- Gas central heating & double glazed
- Detached garage & driveway
- Spacious gardens
- Views across Bristol channel

£235,000



LEE ROAD, BARRY

- 3 bedroom mid terrace property within walking distance to town centre
- Low maintenance garden to rear
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- An ideal investment opportunity or 1st time purchase
- Offered freehold with vacant possession

£90,000



DAVIES STREET, BARRY

- Well presented 2 bedroom property close to town centre
- Close to transport links & local amenities
- Enclosed & low maintenance garden to rear
- Gas central heating & double glazed throughout
- Offered freehold with vacant possession & no chain

£92,000



RENTALS:

- Broad Street** - 2 bedroom 1st floor flat. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £425 pcm
- Newlands Street** - 2 bedroom first floor flat. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £425pcm
- Castledare Street** - 3 bedroom property in central location. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £625pcm
- Davies Street** - 2 Bedroom property close to local amenities. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £525 pcm
- Barry Road** - 3 bedroom 1st floor flat. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £525 pcm
- Church Road** - 3 bedroom property. Garden to rear. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £525 pcm
- Arthur Street** - 3 bedroom property. Conservatory. GCH. DG. Unfurnished £575 pcm

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Prices from £125,000

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Prices from £115,000

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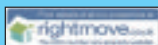
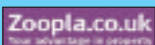
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EDWARD STREET, BARRY
Semi detached bungalow, living room, three bedrooms, kitchen/breakfast, family bathroom, driveway/garage, enclosed rear garden, no chain, price for quick sale.
£124,950



PAGET HEIGHTS, BARRY
Luxurious living, brand new, stunning duplex apartment, far reaching views over the sea, 773 sq ft, two bedrooms, parking to rear, security entry system.
£149,950



HYWEL CRESCENT, BARRY
Three bedrooms, semi detached, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility room, three double bedrooms, front, side & rear gardens, viewing essential, no chain.
£112,500



CASTLE STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced, bay fronted traditional, showhome presented, through living room, modern fitted kitchen, 2013 fitted combi boiler, two double bedrooms, family bathroom & separate wc cloakroom..
£129,000



CROSSFIELD ROAD, BARRY
Four bedroom, extended semi detached, bay fronted, wc cloakroom, living/dining room, sitting room, original block flooring, driveway, garage, upvc dg - gch via combi, private garden backing onto allotments. ER-D.
£224,950



GOLGWY COED, BARRY
Brand new, Taylor Wimpey 'Cowbridge' style, 4 bed linked detached, fitted kitchen, living room, wc cloakroom, family bathroom, 1369 sq ft, garage, offers considered.
£269,995



GOLGWY COED, BARRY
Taylor Wimpey constructed, three storey townhouse, brand new, 1885 sq ft, four bedrooms, fitted kitchen/breakfast area, wc cloakroom, ensuite, garage, no chain, offers considered
£325,995



PRINCES STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced, elevated traditional, living room, three bedrooms, attic area with velux window, steps ascending to raised courtyard garden, walking distance to train station.
£112,950



SPRINGFIELD RISE, BARRY
Semi detached bungalow, three bedrooms, living room, upvc dg - gch via combi, modern fitted kitchen/breakfast, larger than average level garden, driveway/garage. ER-D.
£164,950



HOEL Y PORTHLADD, BARRY
Mid linked, modern townhouse, gr floor - wc cloakroom, kitchen/breakfast. 1st floor - lounge, bedroom & family bathroom. 2nd floor - two bedrooms, master ensuite. ER-C.
£159,950



DOCK VIEW ROAD, BARRY
Traditional mid terraced, original Victorian tiled floors, through living room, separate dining room, fitted kitchen, elevated rear garden, no chain, minutes walk to train station.
£124,995



BENECROFT, RHOOSE
Modern immaculate, detached dwelling, living, dining room, conservatory, kitchen/breakfast, utility, wc cloakroom, four bedrooms, master ensuite, paved driveway garage.
£234,950



PORT ROAD EAST, BARRY
Versatile living, three reception rooms and study, four bedrooms, four bathrooms, kitchen/diner, utility room, garage/drive, set in approx 3rd acre. ER-D.
£399,950



DRYDEN TERRACE, BARRY
Extended semi detached, far reaching sea views, two double bedrooms, two bathrooms, front, side & rear gardens, driveway, upvc dg - gc heating. ER-D.
£109,950



WYE CLOSE, BARRY
Two bedrooms, semi detached bungalow, maintenance free, living room - bi fold doors, opening to rear, replacement kitchen, upvc dg - gch via combi, driveway/garage. ER-C.
£154,950



DOBBINS ROAD BARRY
Quaint semi detached (previously cottage), dating back to 1886, sympathetically renovated, kitchen with oak worktops, two bedrooms, master to ensuite, drive to front. ER-D.
£149,950



HILARY RISE, BARRY
Well presented modern semi detached, constructed approx 25 years, three bedrooms, living/dining room, fitted kitchen, side, front and rear gardens, 2012 upvc double glazing. ER-D
£115,000



CHESTERFIELD STREET, BARRY
End of terraced, three bedrooms, through living room, ground floor bathroom, upvc dg - gc heating via 2013 combi, enclosed low maintenance garden, ideal first time buy. ER-E.
£89,950



PONTYPRIDD ROAD, BARRY
Bay fronted show home presented, living room, dining room, sitting room with vaulted ceiling, w shower room/utility, three bedrooms, enclosed rear level garden. ER-E.
£214,950



WEST WALK, BARRY
Spacious plot, ideal for further extending (subject to usual planning consent), three bedrooms, attic area in attic, living room, ground floor bathroom, semi detached, driveway/garage, no chain. ER-D.
£99,950



GEORGES ROW, DINAS POWIS
End of terraced, traditional living room, ground floor bathroom, 15ft kitchen/breakfast, three bedrooms, upvc double glazing, 150ft rear garden, no chain. ER-D.
£159,950



BRYNHILL CLOSE, BARRY
Extended mid terraced, living room, dining room, open plan kitchen/breakfast, stunning views over golf course/valle, three bedrooms, garage/parking, cul de sac position. ER-C
£164,950



SEALAWNS, BARRY
Far reaching sea views, well presented, 2nd floor apartment, living room, two bedrooms, kitchen, shower room, garage/parking. ER-E.
£124,950



ST OSYTH COURT, BARRY
Apartment block with lift, two bedrooms, far reaching sea views, balcony, replacement bathroom & boiler via combi, modern fitted kitchen, upvc double glazed. ER-C.
£162,500



PARK ROAD, BARRY
Ground floor apartment, one bedroom, West End location, bathroom, kitchen, double glazed, gas central heating via combi, easy reach to Porthkerry Country Park. ER-E.
£94,950



LEWIS STREET, BARRY
End of terraced, through living/dining room, fitted kitchen, ground floor bathroom, three double bedrooms, enclosed rear garden, walk to Porthkerry Park. ER-F.
£134,950



WESTWARD RISE, BARRY
Three bedrooms, traditional semi detached, living room, ground floor bathroom, longer than average driveway, detached garage, ideal for extending (subject to usual planning consent). ER-E.
£184,950



THE GROVE, BARRY
Mid terraced property, traditional Edwardian, spacious living, living room, sitting room, extended fitted kitchen/dining room, four bedrooms, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden.
£224,950



FALCON ROAD, BARRY
Semi detached, modern three bedrooms, upvc double glazed, gas central heating, through lounge/dining room, driveway, ample parking, enclosed rear garden. ER-D.
£129,950



EVERARD STREET, BARRY
Mid terraced traditional, bay fronted, three bedrooms, attic/hobby area, living room/dining, fitted kitchen, utility, family bathroom, no chain, upvc dg - gch via combi. ER-D.
£119,950



CORNWALL ROAD, BARRY
Three bedrooms, semi detached, living room, dining room, sun lounge, fitted kitchen, utility area, situated off Barry Road, low maintenance rear garden. ER-D.
£129,950



SWN Y NANT, ST ATHAN
Architecturally designed, split level over several floors, 2500 sq ft, 2 years ago constructed by owner, vaulted roof & gallery landing, five bedrooms, four bathrooms, three rec rooms, swimming pool - natural brook.
£495,000



ROMILLY PARK ROAD, BARRY
Edwardian semi detached, four rec rooms, three storey, five bedrooms, far reaching sea views, double garage with electric door, parking via hardstanding to rear. ER-E.
£369,950



SOLENT ROAD, BARRY
Extended semi detached, in need of updating, four bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, enclosed garden, side access/driveway, cul de sac position. ER-D.
£119,950



CARN Y EBOL, BARRY
Modern detached, three/four bedrooms, living room, dining room, converted garage, master with en suite, wc cloakroom, low maintenance garden, driveway - providing parking. ER-D.
£194,950





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Three Bedroom
Mid Terraced Property, Through Lounge/ Dining Room, Kitchen with built in Oven & Hob, Downstairs Bathroom, Enclosed rear Garden, Three Double Bedrooms, No Smokers, Pets Considered, No DSS.
£620 per month

RENTAL
One Bedroom
Recently Refurbished Apartment, Views Across Barry Island & Bristol Channel, Open Plan Living Area, Modern Kitchen With Appliances, Shower Room, Double Bedroom, Designated Parking, Video Entrance System, No Pets, No Smokers, DHSS considered.
£500 per month

RENTAL
Three Bedroom Mid Terraced Property, Through Lounge/ Dining Room, Separate Reception Room, Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, One Single Bedroom, Family Bathroom, No Pets, No Smokers, Part DSS Considered. EPC - D.
£625 per month

RENTAL
Second floor two bedroom apartment, waterfront location, unfurnished, kitchen with appliances, designated parking, close to shops and transport links, no pets, no smokers, no DSS.
£550 per month

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 11 September 2013
 Vale of Glamorgan Council
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  Newydd Housing Association
  United Welsh
  Holds and Newydd Housing Association


To apply call the hotline, e-mail us at **HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk** or apply in writing to:

Vale of Glamorgan Council
Legal, Public Protection and Housing
Department Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry
CF63 4RU or **Newydd Housing Association**
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

ARDEN WAY, BARRY

H4U Reference 200739
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £98.55 per week

CLOS LLAWHADEN, BARRY

H4U Reference 963666
Suitable for a small family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Two-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden and parking

Rent £82.78 per week including service charges

COYCHURCH RISE, BARRY

H4U Reference 206135
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Two-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £97.77 per week including water rates

DUNLIN COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 1106441
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Three-bedroom house
- Gas central heating
- Double-glazing
- Enclosed rear garden

Rent £92.23 per week including service charges

ELIZABETH AVENUE, BARRY

H4U Reference 251415
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

Preference given to larger families

- Three-bed parlour house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £97.77 per week including water rates

GEORGES ROW, DINAS POWYS

H4U Reference 231000
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

Rent £103.45 per week including water rates

GWYN JAMES COURT, PENARTH

H4U Reference 968824
Suitable for a single person over 55 - no pets

- Studio apartment
- First floor (no lift)
- Double-glazing
- Communal entrance
- Gardens/parking
- Scheme coordinator on site

Rent £103.94 per week including heating, water and service charges

HADLEY HOUSE, PENARTH

H4U Reference 242680
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £89.62 per week including alarm and water charges

HILL STREET, BARRY

H4U Reference 226460
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55

Preference given to applicants with a proven tenancy history

- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor (with steps)
- Central heating and double glazing
- Community alarm

Not suitable for applicants with mobility difficulties

Rent £90.46 per week including water and alarm charges

HUNT PLACE, BARRY

H4U Reference 212672
Suitable for a single person or couple over 55 - no pets

- One-bedroom flat
- First floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Community alarm

Rent £81.97 per week including alarm and water charges

IRVING PLACE, BARRY (2)

H4U Reference 213164
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement

- Two-bedroom flats
- Second floor
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

Rent £82.93 per week

NEWHOUSE COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 338615
Preference given to applicants aged over 55 with a requirement for a two-bed property, or maximum occupancy meeting bedroom tax requirement.

- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor (with steps)
- Central heating and double glazing

Applicants in receipt of pension credit will be considered

Rent £83.00 per week

PONTALUN CLOSE, BARRY

H4U Reference 221268
Suitable for a single person or couple over 40 - no pets

- One-bedroom flat
- Ground floor (with steps)
- Central heating
- Double-glazing

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H4U Reference 222660
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- Double-glazing
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H4U Reference 225703
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- Double-glazing
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Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representatives must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

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01446 760520

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 25,500 miles, new MOT, excellent condition.
£2,600 ono
01446 795977 before 7pm

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£600 ono
01656 786613
07961 070585

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 If you wish to express an interest in these appointments, please send your details to the following:
Patricia Jenkins, Persimmon Homes East Wales
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02920 530344 (Sully)

Leather Chesterfield Suite
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Bargain £500
01443 227626
07546 519784

Bathmate Reclining Bath
 With remote, charger and manual. Cost £2460, sell £250 ono.
Mira Shower with fitting £20 ono.
01446 404891
 Buyer collects.

LEEKES
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£150
01656 789096

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01446 771428

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Zender Piano & Stool
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07905 909869 (Barry)

Mobility Scooter
 Complete with cover, Nearly new.
£475 ono
07504 878612

Three Seater Sofa & Two Seater Sofa
 Faux leather/fabric, brown with large scatter back cushions. Excellent condition. £300
01446 700203

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Family Notices

HOWARD Reginald

Died peacefully on August 29th at the Heath Hospital.

Reg, beloved husband of the late Pamela, loving father of Beverly, Diane, Stephen, and Timothy. Dear father in law of Randy, Nigel, Michelle and Tina. Doting grandfather of Bronwen, Ceri, Andrew, Jason, Megan, Jessica and Kimberly and great grandpa to Maggie, Pam and Audrey.

He will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynnewydd Road Barry CF62 8HB, until his funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, on Monday 9th September at 3pm. Family flowers only, please. Donations may be sent to the Funeral Directors or can be made after the service in memory of Reg to the British Heart Foundation. All enquiries to 01446 421212.

NORRIS Rosalind Mary

Rosalind, of Pentwyn, Llanblethian, Cowbridge, on August 28th, died peacefully at home, aged 94.

Born Rosalind England on 27th February, 1919, at Pentre Gwilym, Llanishen, to Major and Mrs J.H. England, she became a VAD nurse during the war and served on the aircraft carrier, HMS Glory, which had been converted into a hospital ship, helping to nurse and repatriate prisoners of war. She served the local community with "Meals on Wheels" for over 40 years.

Beloved wife of the late Robert, dearly loved mother of Richard, Robert and Joey and sadly missed grandmother of Louis, Laura, Jonathan, Catrin, David, Gemma and Josh.

The funeral service will be held on Monday, 16th September, at 2.00pm in Llanblethian Church, followed by a burial in the Churchyard. Family flowers only, but donations may be made to Diabetes UK, c/o J.W. James, 11, Fommon Road, Rhosce, Cardiff, CF62 3DZ (Cheques only please)

COX Glenys Enid

Peacefully at Velindre Hospital, Glenys, devoted wife of Doug, much-loved mother of Susan and Alison, loving granny of Gemma, Hannah, Christopher and Emily.

Funeral service at St Bridget's Church, St Brides Major on Monday September 9 at 11am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers made payable to Velindre Fund Raising and forwarded to Velindre Hospital, Velindre Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff.

DAVIES Gareth

Passed away suddenly at Llandough Hospital on 21st August 2013, aged 66.

Gareth will be sadly missed by all who loved and knew him.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors, 7 Tynnewydd Road, Barry until his funeral service on Friday, September 6th at 3.45pm, at Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park Port Road, Barry.

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Birthdays

Happy 18th Birthday

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on 8th September



*Love from
Mum, Dad &
all the family
xxx*

Engagement

*Mr & Mrs K Major
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engagement of their son*



DANIEL to VICTORIA CHAFFE

on 27th August 2013.

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Love from all your family.
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Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00761/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Two storey extension to west elevation, new garden room to rear (north) elevation
Location/Lleoliad: Stable Cottage, Broughton
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Affecting the Monkknash

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00766/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Raise Height of lower roof to create bedrooms
Location/Lleoliad: Eagle Cottage behind Eagle House, Eagle Lane, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Cowbridge

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00773/RG3
Proposal/Cynnyg: Repairs to the Grade II listed eastern Shelter; New walkways and various other works to public realm.
Location/Lleoliad: Eastern Promenade, Barry Island, Barry
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Barry (Marine)

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00774/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Repair and restoration of the Eastern Shelter; repairs to deal with concrete spalling and cracks caused by water ingress; provision of new surfacing to the promenade under the shelter; provision of new guide rail next to the roof perimeter to safeguard pedestrian access as access to the roof is being opened up as part of the wider eastern promenade works.
Location/Lleoliad: Eastern Shelter, Barry Island, Barry
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Affecting the Barry (Marine)

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00806/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: An extension to a bridge adjoining Caffi Nia and a proposed separate toilet block.
Location/Lleoliad: Caffi Nia, The Kiosk, 4, Willow Walk, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Cowbridge

Conservation Area Consent / Caniatâd Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00811/CAC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Proposed demolition of existing rear annex, alterations and minor extension to rear annex of property, plus carport and bin store
Location/Lleoliad: 42, Clive Place, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Penarth

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00774/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Repair and restoration of the Eastern Shelter; repairs to deal with concrete spalling and cracks caused by water ingress; provision of new surfacing to the promenade under the shelter; provision of new guide rail next to the roof perimeter to safeguard pedestrian access as access to the roof is being opened up as part of the wider eastern promenade works.
Location/Lleoliad: Eastern Shelter, Barry Island, Barry
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00802/LBC

Proposal/Cynnyg: Replacement of lath and plaster ceilings with plasterboard and gypsum skim to existing internal walls and tiling of window reveals
Location/Lleoliad: The Flat, 71, Eastgate, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00817/LBC
Proposal/Cynnyg: Alterations to office accommodation, including forming new reception, upgrading storage space to office accommodation and improving disabled access
Location/Lleoliad: Docks Office, Subway Road, Barry
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00771/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Green oak framed garage and store to side of dwelling
Location/Lleoliad: Court Farmhouse, Llansannor, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting The Great Barn and The Granary, both Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Caeisadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00745/OUT
Proposal/Cynnyg: Residential development comprised of 60% affordable housing and 40% open market family housing, and associated works, including strategic access point
Location/Lleoliad: Land South of Primrose Hill, Cowbridge

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00773/RG3
Proposal/Cynnyg: Repairs to the Grade II listed eastern Shelter; New walkways and various other works to public realm.
Location/Lleoliad: Eastern Promenade, Barry Island, Barry

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00778/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Conversion of former Marine Hotel, demolition of storage building, development of surrounding land for 20 affordable residential units, and associated works
Location/Lleoliad: Former Marine Hotel, Barry Island

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00822/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Construction and use of an anaerobic digestion facility and associated works
Location/Lleoliad: Penlllyn Estate Farm, Llwynhelig, Cowbridge

Application No:/ Rhif y cais: 2013/00833/FUL
Proposal/Cynnyg: Creation of sports training pitches, erection of maintenance facilities, associated car parking and internal roadway
Location/Lleoliad: Opposite Hensol Villas, Hensol

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 5th September, 2013

M. Goldsworthy
Operational Manager, Development & Building Control,
Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT


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WARRANTY

Model shown is Yaris Trend 1.33 VVT-i 5 door manual £14,795. Offer excludes metallic paint extra £495. Prices correct at time of publication and include VAT, delivery charge, number plates, 1 year's road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail orders of Yaris Trend when ordered between 1 July and 30 September 2013 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services, Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ before 31 December 2013 on a 3 year Access Toyota (PCP) plan with 0-27% deposit. ^Payment shown is based on a 3 year Access Toyota (PCP) plan with £3,636.40 deposit and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Excess miles over 30,000 charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. Affordable finance through Access Toyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions. †1 year's free comprehensive insurance offer is subject to purchase being made via Toyota Financial Services on a Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) only and is available on all new Yaris models when ordered and financed between 1 July and 30 September 2013. Vehicles must be registered by 31 December 2013. All drivers must be aged 21 years and over. Offer is limited to the insured plus up to four additional drivers. The insured and all drivers must have held a full UK driving licence for a minimum of 2 years and had no more than 1 fault claim in the last 3 years. Offer only available to customers with no more than 1 minor motoring conviction in the last 3 years. Standard Toyota Motor Insurance Terms & Conditions apply (available on request) - these will be confirmed in the policy document. ^^Offer available on selected offers only, terms and conditions apply.

Yaris Trend 1.33 VVT-i 5 door manual Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 41.5 (6.8), Extra Urban 60.1 (4.7), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ Emissions 127g/km. The mpg figures quoted are sourced from official EU-regulated test results. These are provided for comparability purposes and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

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PG10 GROUP SHINE IN USA!

PG10 coaching under-14s have recently returned from the USA where the team took part in FIFA and USSF regulated unique international football tournaments in Los Angeles, San Francisco and Las Vegas.

The team successfully won the San Francisco Cup and came third in the Los Angeles based tournament played in Anaheim; in both tournaments they were the only team from the UK and Europe competing.

The team, made up of players from Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg in Barry and Cowbridge secondary school in the Vale, competed against teams from across the USA and Mexico.

The players also met Chivas USA professional footballer and former Mexico international Juan Francisco Palencia who is director of football at Chivas USA, who participated in two World Cups for his country.

While being inspired at LA Galaxy the players also met NBA Chicago



The winning team.

Bulls basketball star Derrick Rose and the USA girls' national under-18 team.

Following on from the success, PG10 will be taking junior teams and coaches to Barcelona, Dubai and Gambia over the next six months as well as providing coaching opportunities in the USA.

PG

Bowlers celebrate promotion

CONGRATULATIONS to Llantwit Major's A team who, on Saturday, under the captaincy of Richard George, defeated Ynysbwl on all rinks in a landslide win to secure promotion from the sixth division.

The club finals competitions were also held on the weekend. In the mens' championship Graham Jones came out the winner in a close game which could have gone either way against former champion John Crane 21-18.

In the two bowl handicap David Post beat previous winner Mike Adams in a one sided affair with David sending up long jacks to overcome Mike 21-6.

In the Frank Rhodes cup, Arthur Hayes, after trailing at the start, got the better of Mike Harmon with his experience telling to win 21-14.

In the Tyro competition Kyle Garrison a newcomer to the club bowled beautifully with his bowls constantly in or around the jack to out bowl Mike Harmon 21-8. It was a well organised two days of competitions by Nick Parry.

NY

TIM'S DOUBLE

ABERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan landed a double at Worcester last week with Chilbury Hill and Falcarragh.

The former, ridden by 7lb claiming jockey Michael Byrne, finished one-and-a-quarter lengths ahead of the Evan Williams trained Arguam, partnered by stable jockey Paul Moloney, in the selling handicap hurdle and the latter, ridden by Richard Johnson, took the novices' hurdle beating the Rebecca Curtis trained Castle Beach.

BRIAN LEE

Dinas Powys FC suffer home loss to Penrhiwceiber

FOR the second week running, Dinas Powys manager Dave Penikett had to reshuffle his squad, with several players unavailable or injured for this game against Penrhiwceiber Rangers.

Dinas had the first chance to open the scoring after eight minutes when a strong run down the left wing and a good cross by Ben Ah-mun found the head of Dan Owen but his effort cleared the cross-bar.

Dinas got the breakthrough on 15 minutes when a Dave Penikett free-kick found Carlos Indjai, and his looping header beat Rangers keeper Kurt Rodgers for the opener.

Just three minutes later they almost repeated the move; Penikett's free kick was again headed goalward by Indjai, beating Rodgers, but a defender just cleared the ball off the goal-line.

The home side's defence was coping well with any attacks by the visitors most of the time but a quick Ceiber free kick almost caught them napping and Dinas keeper James Curtin had to be alert to bravely smother the ball at the striker's feet.

Late in the half, good link-up play between Joe Briscoe, Indjai and Ah-mun looked promising but Ah-mun was dispossessed and the attack broke down. Dinas deserved their half-time lead on chances created.

However, a succession of injuries in the

second half gave the visitors the upper hand.

First after a good run down the right wing by Ah-mun, he was tackled and fell awkwardly and had to be replaced by Dimitri Fallas after just five minutes.

Fallas soon made an impression, giving the Ceiber defence a hard time with his strong runs.

The visitors drew level when a corner was only half cleared to Seb Haggert, who found the net through a crowd of players with a hard, low shot 12 minutes into the half.

Dinas had a half chance when Luke Swaffield got a shot away from a throw-in but his effort went over the bar.

Indjai then pulled up injured and had to be replaced by Matthew Tucker with 15 minutes remaining - followed shortly by Joe Briscoe, also with a leg injury, Scott Muir replacing him.

This upset the balance of the Dinas side and it was backs to the wall time.

A free kick out wide was headed against the Dinas cross-bar and cleared but Ceiber were not to be denied and, after a mix-up in the Dinas defence, Nathan Prodger fired home the winner late in the game.

Dinas must put this defeat behind them with two cup games ahead of them, the first on September 7 when they entertain Abertillery Bluebirds at the Murch in the Nathaniel Car Sales League Cup round 1.

Squad: 1 James Curtin, 2 James Marr, 3 Chris Brownhill, 4 Dave Penikett, 5 James Bloxham (c), 6 Paul

Penikett, 7 Luke Swaffield, 8 Carlos Indjai, 9 Joe Briscoe, 10 Ben Ah-mun, 11 Dan Owen, 12 Dimitri Fallas, 14 Matthew Tucker, 15 Mike Lazarou, 16 Scott Muir.

PK

Stars turn out for cricket match in aid of the Tom Maynard Trust

ST FAGANS Cricket Club, on the outskirts of Cardiff, will be the setting for a special celebration cricket match on Friday, September 13, as Matthew Maynard brings a star-studded team to play the local side, with the profits going to the Tom Maynard Trust.

St Fagans was where Tom, tragically killed in a rail accident, had played most of his club cricket in Wales - following in the footsteps of his father, who himself was also a St Fagans stalwart. The match will have a special poignancy for the Maynard family, because of their close connections with the club. The invitation XI is being sponsored by Abbey Glass and CPS, with kit provided courtesy of MKK Sports.

Already confirmed for Matthew's team are former England Test and one-day stars Andy Caddick, Paul Nixon, Phillip De Freitas, Neil Fairbrother and Shaun Udall, as well as former Australian all-rounder Ian Harvey.

They are joined by Kent and former Glamorgan batsman Mike Powell and former Glamorgan seam bowler Andrew Davies.

Wales rugby union international Rhys Williams is lined up to play, along with, of course, Matthew himself.

A number of current Glamorgan players will also be in attendance on the day.

The match itself starts at 2.30pm and will be preceded by a special marquee lunch, with entertainment being provided by one of Matthew's close friends, the former Lancashire, Durham and England opening batsman and renowned public speaker, Graeme Fowler.

Robert Croft, a long time playing colleague of Matthew's, has agreed to act as MC for the lunch.

Corporate tables are available for booking by completing the booking form: stfaganscricket.hitscricket.com/club/sf3171/docs/Booking%20form%20TMT.pdf.

The match is open to the public - admission £5 for adults and children being admitted free of charge. There will be a hog roast in the late afternoon.

More information is available by visiting the St Fagans Cricket Club website: stfaganscricket.hitscricket.com

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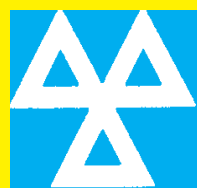
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THE sanguine words of JB Priestly could well reflect the unquenchable optimism and sense of nervous anticipation that grips the average Welsh rugby follower, as summer turns to autumn and with it the start of another season.

There was a time when each year, the hopes of world rugby's most fervent of fans all too quickly gave way to frustration and dismay, and their famed loyalty tested to the full – particularly when a golden decade of seamless Seventies supremacy gave way to near two decades of gloom and despondency on the international field.

Those were the days when it seemed that almost any team, no matter how 'lowly', could come to Cardiff reasonably confident of victory; and there were some horrendous and humiliating score-lines, both home and away, as Welsh rugby's reputation sank to its lowest ebb.

Mocked and derided as '40-minute no-hopers' on the world scene, despite intermittent purple patches, it is easy to forget that not too long ago there was even lofty talk, over the border, of England (and France) breaking away from Wales and the other Celtic nations, who were considered not to



LEFT: Flashback to that heady day, March 16, 2013, at the Millennium Stadium, when unfancied Wales ruthlessly crushed England's hopes of a Grand Slam, and celebrated another Six Nations championship.

That steely performance, and the successful Lions' tour to Australia, could yet prove to have been crucial turning points for Wales' hopes of world acclaim.

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by Don John

be on their competitive level!

At home, certain pundits in the media, as well as some leading ex-players, were gloomily predicting that 'Wales will never again win a championship title... our players are too small, and not fit or physical enough...'

All of that arrant nonsense has finally been laid to rest by the current crop of redoubtable young men in red; not only with their ruthless 30-3 demolition of a Grand Slam-chasing England in last season's Six Nations championship decider at Cardiff, but in the Lions' epic final test against Australia – when two thirds of the starting team were Welsh – and most of the coaches were also from the Welsh camp, headed by Warren Gatland.

The renaissance had briefly flickered into life in 2005, with a Grand Slam under Mike Ruddock, but truly flowered with the WRU's canny appointment of Kiwi head coach Gatland in 2008 – following Wales' shock World Cup exit at the hands of rugby 'minnows' Fiji, amid universal ridicule.

Three Grand Slams, Triple Crowns, and a RWC semi-final on, the former international whipping boys are now being touted as 2015 Rugby World Cup contenders (albeit somewhat prematurely) by some of the selfsame critics who had scoffed so loudly in the past.

What the latter had lost sight of was the fact that despite all the trials and tribulations, both on and off the field, there have always been two constants: Welsh rugby followers' unwavering loyalty to the national team, and belief in the inherent talents of gifted Welsh players to eventually shine through, even in this modern, physical-oriented game.

What the pragmatic Gatland and his backroom team have done is to mould these natural assets into a formidable, professional unit, founded on extreme physical fitness and an offensive-defence structure, to overcome the past failings and meet rugby's

changed demands head on. Admittedly, this uncompromisingly rugged approach, though clearly successful thus far, has been generally at the expense of traditional Welsh flair and creativity (Shane Williams the notable exception); a case in point being the hugely-gifted James Hook, now sadly relegated to a bit part on the global stage.

One can only hope that the dour direction of the modern game where defence-minded teams invariably look for contact rather than space (*what would the great Carwyn James have made of that, I wonder?*) will not permanently preclude flair and more instinctive players of his ilk.

Gatland's current remit takes him up to and including RWC 2015 and no doubt triumph at Twickenham, where his successful tenure as Wales coach began in 2005, is now the driving force.

Not only would it be an immense personal achievement that would look very nice on his CV back home in New Zealand (assuming that is where the proud Kiwi's ultimate ambitions lie), but it would finally confirm Wales' place in the higher echelons of world rugby – hence the emphasis on *consistent excellence* of performance, *a la* the All Blacks.

This over-riding priority will be reinforced in the forthcoming autumn clashes with the southern hemisphere giants, which are carefully-charted steps along the way to a 'winning mentality' – and Gatland's young squad can now justifiably approach these further tests with confidence.

Alas, the same cannot be said of the four Welsh regions, who have yet to convince – despite a decade of professionalism.

It is true that they are undoubtedly disadvantaged, compared with some of their more cash-rich French and English rivals, but money surely cannot be the sole reason for their lack of sustained success on the field, particularly in European competition, that is bleakly reflected in poor match attendances.

As this column has previously noted, they have been painfully slow to fully embrace the concept of regional rugby in a professional era – clinging on for too long to an outdated and divisive 'town club' image – instead of pro-actively spreading their net far and wide, to win over disengaged supporters from all parts of their region, who in the past may have seen them as arch rivals.

The regions can rightly expect to receive some financial support from the WRU, but the parent body's responsibility is to the game as a whole in Wales.

In the final analysis, the regions' ultimate goal has to be self-sufficiency in a professional world where, rightly or wrongly, a once amateur sport has, *de facto*, become a business controlled by the accountant's balance sheet. Funding remains a complex issue, entangled in the thorny question of centralised contracts, personalised financial packages, and growing concern over the Welsh 'player-drain'.

It is to be hoped that all this is finally unravelled before a worrying situation escalates into a crisis, just when Welsh rugby, at least at national level, is on an unprecedented high, with exciting young talent pushing through at lower age levels.

In fact, the present feel-good factor is encompassing Welsh sport in general, with both Cardiff and Swansea in the English football Premiership and our celebrated contingent of Welsh Olympians preparing to make their mark again in the Commonwealth Games.

No wonder the quotation at the head of this article seems particularly apt – as we all look forward to seeing what a new day brings, ever hopeful there is a bit of magic waiting somewhere behind the morning!

SAD LOSS

A sobering note to the new season came with the recent passing of two of Welsh rugby's greatest halves, Cliff Morgan and Onllwyn Brace, who both epitomised outstanding individual flair on the field and modesty off it.

Having been in awe of them as a youngster, I came to know Onllwyn, who lived in Cowbridge, very well and was proud to call him a friend. He is sadly missed.

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